



St Cuthbert (Out) Parish Council

c/o Monitoring Officer Mendip District Council

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PARISH GUIDE

Lost and Stray Dogs

The Law: The Control of Dogs Order 1992

A dog must:

- Be fitted with a microchip by the time it is 8 weeks old. Microchips must be fitted by a trained professional, and details entered on an approved national database. A local veterinary centre can perform the procedure.
- When in a public place, wear a collar and tag with the owner's name and address (and preferably a contact number).

Failure to comply with the law can result in fines up to £5,000.

What to do if you find a stray dog

You must return a stray dog to its owner if you know who the owner is. If you do not know who the owner is, you should contact Mendip District Council. The Council's Stray Dog Service can only collect stray dogs if they are confined or secured within the Mendip area.

If the dog has no identification or you have been unable to return it to the owner, you may report it to the Stray Dog Service, providing that you have secured the dog in your possession.

Please note the Police are not responsible for managing reports of stray dogs.

What to do if you cannot reunite a dog with its owner.

Mendip District Council DO NOT have a Dog Warden. **In the first instance, you should contact Environmental Health at Mendip District Council** who are solely responsible for providing a found dog service.

Telephone: 0300 303 8588

Email: env-health@mendip.gov.uk

Website: [Mendip District Council environmental complaints](#)

What happens next

Dogs collected in the Mendip area go to kennels near Weston-super-Mare where they stay for a week or two to see if their owners turn up. If not, they are handed into the care of **Blue Cross** for re-housing. Stray dogs are not put down unless there is a compelling humanitarian reason.

The contact number for this kennels is 01934 750352

Lost dogs

To report a lost dog, your first contact should be Mendip District Council on the above number or email.

All dogs collected are scanned for microchips to try and identify owners. So long as your dog has a collar and tag and/or is microchipped, Mendip District Council or the above kennels may be able to identify the owner of a dog that comes into their care.

Local veterinary practices can also offer advice and if asked will scan a stray dog for its microchip ID. Local practices co-operate in identifying owners of stray dogs where they have prior knowledge/medical records for a dog.

For further advice, visit the **Blue Cross** Website.

Website: <https://www.bluecross.org.uk/>