

Marshall David

From: Fern Howard [Fern.Howard@thekennelclub.org.uk]
Sent: 19 October 2010 17:12
To: Marshall David
Cc: Emily Jeffrey
Subject: Dog Control Order Information
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed
Attachments: KC DCO briefing paper - Jul 10.doc; Schemes to promote responsible dog ownership.doc; FOI stats 19.10.10.doc

Dear David,

Further to our telephone conversation, please find attached:

1. Kennel Club briefing on Dog Control Orders
2. Examples of positive alternatives to Dog Control Orders implemented by a selection of local councils
3. Indicative statistics of costs/income associated with Dog Control Orders (19.10.10)

Based on our experience, the Kennel Club advocates that developing schemes to promote responsible dog ownership is largely more successful and cost effective than introducing Dog Control Orders. Research shows that irresponsible dog walking often arises simply due to lack of information, as dog owners are not always clear about where or how they should dispose of dog mess or how to deal with behavioural problems. Successful initiatives run by a number of councils across the UK show that **EDUCATING** and **ENGAGING** local dog walkers can significantly reduce irresponsible behaviour and create a welcoming environment for both dog owners and non-dog owners without resorting to Dog Control Orders. Positive, simple and relatively low cost actions that you can take may include:

- Distributing waste bags
- Liaising with local dog walkers to ensure that dog waste bins are conveniently located, sufficiently monitored and emptied regularly
- Developing a code of conduct or community dog initiative/event

The Kennel Club's KC Dog campaign strives to work with local councils to discuss problems and develop possible solutions before turning to restrictions. To find out more about this campaign please visit: www.thekennelclub.org.uk/kcdog. In order to help us monitor the situation in Peterborough, it would be great if you could let me know if/when there are any developments in relation to Dog Control Order proposals.

If you require any further information or advice on this matter, please do get in touch.

Warm regards,

Fern

Fern Howard
 External Affairs Assistant
 The Kennel Club, 1-5 Clarges St, Piccadilly, London, W1J 8AB
 Tel: 020 7518 1020
 Fax: 020 7518 1028
 Email: fern.howard@thekennelclub.org.uk
 Web: <http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/kccampaigns>



THE KENNEL CLUB
Making a difference for dogs

DOG CONTROL ORDERS FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Please note that the statistics given below are indicative and reflect the data entered up to and including today's date (19/10/10).

Of the FOI responses processed so far, **87 local authorities have run consultations/implemented dog control orders.**

Expenditure*

- Over **50% (44)** of these **87 respondents have not calculated any costs in relation to control orders** (consultation expenses/signage/officer enforcement etc.).
- Average spend = **£10,894.564** per local authority (based on calculations from 43 local authorities). However, the detail of costings varied significantly between councils:
 - A significant number indicated that there were extra costs in addition to those given
 - A significant number indicated that the figure given was only an estimation
- Most amount spent = **£58,318.44**

N.B. The attached document shows how Hampshire Council spent under £1,000 on a successful scheme promoting responsible dog ownership.

Income*

- Average income = **£2,156.68**
- 26 local authorities have made **£0** from dog control orders between April 2006-2010
- 6 councils have not recorded income accrued from dog control orders

* April 2006 - April 2010

Case Study: Schemes to promote responsible dog ownership

Falkirk Council - Green Dog Walkers

Green Dog Walkers (GDW) is a non-confrontational, friendly way to change attitudes about dog fouling in the Falkirk Council area. Volunteers wear a GDW armband which signifies that they have "Taken the Pledge" to always:

- clean up after their dog
- carry extra dog waste bags
- be happy to be approached to 'lend' a dog waste bag to those without
- be a friendly reminder to other dog walkers to clean up after their dogs

The scheme has been rolled out throughout the Falkirk Council area and has over 400 individual volunteers wearing the GDW armbands and 9 community group partners who are managing their own schemes within their neighborhoods.

New volunteers are invited to sign the GDW pledge in order to receive the armband.

The scheme has cost the Council approximately £8000 - covering set-up costs and the GDW Starter Packs sent to community group partners which include armbands, leaflets, posters, poop scoops and doggy bags.

For further information go to:

http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/corporate_neighbourhood/estates_management/litterzone/community/green_dog_walkers.aspx

Brighton and Hove Council – Raising the standard of professional dog walking

Brighton and Hove Council was the first council in the UK to establish an inspection and accreditation scheme for dog walking businesses. Launched in November 2009 the scheme invites dog walking businesses to be inspected and sign a Code of Conduct, allowing the Council to regulate the industry and giving the public a benchmark to help find reputable businesses.

The scheme came about after members of the public raised concerns with the council's Animal Welfare officers about these businesses being able to act responsibly.

As part of the scheme dog walkers undergo an inspection of vehicles used to transport the dogs, provide evidence of their insurance and sign a Code of Conduct. Companies which sign the code and pass the inspection are then given a listing on the council's website.