



DogsTrust



Dear Sir or Madam,

05/11/2010

Dogs Trust is interested to hear that Peterborough Authority is considering the introduction of a Dog Control Order under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. We strongly support the concept of responsible dog ownership and undertake a significant effort to encourage dog owners to be responsible. Issues such as dog fouling and keeping proper control of a dog in public places are frequently the focus of our campaigns.

We draw to your attention new animal welfare legislation, the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which imposes a duty of care on all persons who have contact with animals. One of the requirements of the Act is to allow the animal "*to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns*". For dogs this will clearly include the ability to exercise the dog off the lead in an appropriate place.

There is a significant body of scientific research that shows that dogs are a benefit to society. Keeping dogs encourages responsibility, particularly for juveniles, and there are significant health benefits to dog owners. While there may also be some disadvantages, responsible ownership, including such procedures as regular worming, are effective in minimising them. Dogs Trust therefore considers it important that responsible owners should not be discouraged from keeping a dog by draconian Dog Control Orders.

Please feel free to contact us at any stage of your research process.

Kind regards,

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