

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

**You asked:**

### **Section 1: Dog Warden Service**

ANSWER

As we need Freedom of Information (FOI) requests in permanent form, and we also have to have any reply to a FOI readily available for anyone to ask for a copy, we are unable to reply to a request using survey monkey. There is also no space in such a survey to apply any exemption text if necessary or anywhere to add appeal rights. Therefore please find our answers below.

**1. Please tell us which Local Authority you represent**

Leicester City Council

**2. Where is your Local Authority based**

Leicester

**3. Is the Dog Warden/Stray Dog Service managed by**

This Local Authority

**4. Does your Local Authority provide relevant training to its Dog Warden/Stray Dog Service Team in any of the following areas?**

Animal welfare legislation

Dog handling

Dog behaviour

Microchip insertion

### **Section 2: Animal Welfare Policy**

**5. Does your Local Authority have in place a policy or charter with regard to animal welfare**

No

**6. If yes, does this cover companion animal welfare (both domestic and commercially owned)?**

N/A

### Section 3: Stray Dogs

**7. What kind of Dog Warden/Stray Dog Service does your Local Authority operate?**

'In hours' in-house collection service and a contracted out-of-hours service.

**8. Does your Local Authority except dogs that have been found in another Council area and brought into your Local Authority by the finder?**

No

**9. Does your Local Authority keep records of all stray dogs received and how they were disposed of?**

Yes.

**10. Where does your Local Authority keep stray dogs while waiting to be claimed?**

The local authority contracts out this service to an animal rescue charity to act as the dog pound.

**11. How many stray dogs were handled by your Local Authority from 1 October 2012 – 30th of September 2013.**

501 – 600 (543)

**12. Using your answer to Question 11, how is this total broken down by breed type? (Please enter in the boxes below how many dogs of each breed were taken in by the Local Authority as stray dogs during this period).**

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for local government is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending more than 18 hours in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

We estimate it will take approximately 27 hours to process your request. This is calculated as investigating 543 files at 3 minutes per file.

This is therefore a Refusal Notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act, because under the provisions of section 12.1 of the Act, the Council estimates that to comply with your request in its current form will exceed the appropriate limit.

**13. If you have entered a value against 'OTHER' in Q 12 please give further details**

N/A

**14. How many of these dogs were claimed by their owners, either by being claimed at the kennels or directly returned?**

201-300

**15. Does your Local Authority from the micro-chipping service was stray dogs, so that they are microchipped before being returned to the owner?**

Yes

**16. How does your Local Authority deal with dogs that are unclaimed?**

Local Authority passes on ownership of dog to dog pound for re-homing/selling.

**17. How many dogs were euthanased from 1st October 2012 - 30th September 2013 at local authority cost?**

21-25

**18. Please indicate the reasons why the dogs were euthanased (please number in order of priority with 1 being highest priority and 7 being lowest priority)**

1 - Due to breed type

2 - Due to ill health

3 - Due to behavioural problems

**19. Please indicate destruction rate by breed type (top 5 breeds).**

1st - Pit Bull Terrier

**20. If re-homed (by Local Authority, dog pound or welfare organisations) does the following take place, prior to re-homing?**

Dogs are neutered - No

Dogs are microchipped - No

Dogs are vaccinated - No

Dogs are physically assessed - Yes

Dogs are behaviourally assessed - Yes

New owners vetted i.e. home checked before dog is re-homed - Yes

Dogs can be returned if homing is unsuccessful - Yes

**Section 4: Community Outreach Work**

**21. Does your Local Authority undertake any of the following outreach work to promote the welfare within the community**

Active promotion of free or low-cost microchipping - **Yes**

Active promotion of free or low-cost neutering schemes – **No**

Education of the public in responsible pet ownership and duty of care - **Yes**

Hold community events/roadshows and responsible dog ownership - **No**

Conduct school visits to promote responsible dog ownership - **No**

Provide information on the Council's website on responsible dog ownership and stray dog service - **Yes**

Work in partnership with social housing providers to promote responsible dog ownership – **No**

**22. Does your Local Authority work in partnership with dog rescue and re-homing organisations to promote responsible dog ownership?**

**Yes**

**23. If no, would you be interested in forming strategic partnerships with rescue and rehoming organisations to promote responsible dog ownership and responsibly rehome stray dogs?**

**Yes**

**24. If your Local Authority is working in partnership with local social housing associations/providers, what work have you undertaken with them to promote responsible dog ownership?**

**Yes on a case-by-case basis.**

**25. If your Local Authority does not currently work in partnership with local social housing associations/providers is this something your Local Authority would be interested in finding further information about?**

**N/A**

## **Section 5: Dangerous Dogs**

**26. How many dogs in your local area were seized under the Dangerous Dogs Act from 1 October 2012 - 30 September 2013?**

**Nil**

**27. Please indicate the top three breeds which were seized under the dangerous dogs act in your local area**

**Please see the answer to question 12.**

**28. Do you think the newly proposed measures regarding dangerous dogs (following a government consultation in 2012) will encourage more responsible dog ownership?**

Don't know

**29. please give the reasons to your answer to Q 28.**

Doubtful micro-chipping legislation will be effective if there are no sufficiently punitive measures for ensuring owners change details - will not prevent owners from passing dogs on.

### **Section 6: Licensing**

**30. How many of the following establishments does your Local Authority regulate in the local area by issuing licences and carrying out inspections?**

Dog boarding kennels: 1 - 2

Dog boarding in private homes: 0

Dog breeding establishments: 1 - 2

Dog breeding in private homes: 0

Pet shops: 11-15

Greyhound racing tracks: 0

**31. How often are inspections carried out each year?**

Dog boarding kennels - Once a year

Dog home boarding - We do not license these establishments

Dog breeding in private homes – N/A

Dog breeding establishments - Once a year

Pet shops - Once a year

Greyhound racing tracks - We do not license these establishments

**32. Which department within your Local Authority is responsible for issuing licences and carrying out inspections of these establishments?**

Licensing Department

### **Section 7 : Dog Welfare**

**33. Please state which top 5 welfare issues are of most concern to your Local Authority**

Dangerous dogs – 3rd

Out of control dogs – 1st

Dog attacks on dogs – 1st

Dog attacks on humans – 3rd

Dog attacks on farm livestock – 5th  
Dogs kept on allotments – 5th  
Dogs being used to dog fighting – 5th  
Number of dogs being abandoned – 5th  
Dogs kept on traveller sites – 3rd  
Number of stray dogs – 1st  
Backstreet/illegal dog breeding – 5th  
Dogs with behavioural problems from lack of socialisation – 5th  
Overpopulation of dogs – 1st  
Irresponsible dog ownership – 1st

**34. What do you see as being your, or your department's primary role, please number in order of priority with 1 being highest priority and 10 being lowest priority**

Dealing with stray dogs – 1  
Dealing with dog control/nuisance issues – 1  
Dealing with dangerous dogs – 2  
Dealing with dog cruelty and duty of care – 10  
Promotion of responsible ownership – 1  
Dog rehabilitation and re-homing – 10  
Promotion of neutering in the community – 10

**35. Would you agree that introducing a fixed penalty system would make it easy for you to enforce your duties under the Animal Welfare Act?**

[Don't know.](#)

## **Section 8 : Comments**

**36. Please add any final comments you may have regarding this questionnaire.**

**37. Please indicate if you would like to receive a copy of the questionnaire summary report by entering your e-mail address**

[Geraldine.Fleming@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Geraldine.Fleming@leicester.gov.uk)

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If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

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**FREEPOST (LE985/33)**  
**New Walk Centre**  
**LEICESTER LE1 6ZG**

e-mail: [info.requests@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:info.requests@leicester.gov.uk)

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

**Information Commissioner's Office**  
**Wycliffe House**  
**Water Lane**  
**Wilmslow SK9 5AF**  
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