Consultation on new laws for dog owners

Daventry District Council is consulting on whether to adopt new powers that apply to dog owners.

They will require dog owners to:
- Clear up when a dog has fouled
- Keep dogs on a lead in some areas
- Keep dogs out of some areas
- Put a dog on a lead by direction
- Take up to a maximum number of dogs for a walk at one time

This leaflet explains what the laws will require dog owners to do and how you can comment during the consultation period, which runs from January 17 to March 21, 2011.

How do I comment about this?

You can comment on the orders by downloading the consultation feedback form which can either be accessed on the council website at www.daventrydc.gov.uk or by requesting a copy over the phone on 01327 871100 and returning it to the following address:

Paul Knight
Environmental Health Manager
Environmental Improvement,
Daventry District Council,
Lodge Road,
DAVENTRY
NN11 4FP

Alternatively you can email:
environmentalimprovement@daventrydc.gov.uk

Further Information

For further information including the proposed Dog Control Orders and frequently asked questions please visit www.daventrydc.gov.uk

Alternatively contact Daventry District Council on 01327 871100 to have this information posted to you.

Are there any exemptions from these orders?

Dogs trained by a prescribed charity upon which the owner relies on for assistance are exempt from dog exclusion zones.

Anyone who is registered as a blind person or has a registered disability which affects their mobility, manual dexterity, physical co-ordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, and/or has a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon which they rely for assistance is also exempt from removing dog faeces.

Other dog laws will remain the same within the Daventry District. These include the legal requirement that all dogs in a public place wear a collar and tag with the owners name and address on it.

Fixed penalty notices

Daventry District Council intends to issue Fixed penalty Notices to enforce the proposed Dog Control Orders as prescribed by Section 59 of the Clean Neighbours and Environment Act 2005. The penalty would be £75, to be paid within fourteen days. Failure to pay the fine within this period may result in prosecution.
Why introduce Dog Control Orders?

Daventry District Council has reviewed its existing dog related controls and concluded that Dog Control Orders would enable it to better tackle the low numbers of irresponsible dog owners who continue to fail to adequately control their dogs, or who allow them to foul without clearing up after them. The Orders will also allow the Council to enforce on land not covered by current byelaws, and permit Parish Councils to play a role in promoting responsible dog ownership.

What are the Orders?

1. Keeping dogs on leads

If adopted this order would require people in control of a dog to keep it on a lead in the following areas:
   - Footways, cycle ways, footpaths, and pedestrian areas maintained at public expense.
   - Any grass verge maintained at public expense which is adjacent or adjoining any footway, or any highway or road which is subject to a speed limit of 50mph or less.
   - All car parks to which the public have access.
   - All sport grounds, fields and pitches.
   - All cemeteries and churchyards.
   - All areas which are designated and marked for children’s play and is not land from which dogs are excluded (see 2 below).
   - On allotments.

2. Excluding dogs from land

This order would prohibit people from taking dogs into these areas:
   - All enclosed children’s play areas and areas signed at its entrance(s) as a “dog exclusion area”.
   - Enclosed games area i.e. tennis and ball courts, multi-sports areas, skate parks.
   - All bowling greens.
   - Enclosed educational facility (school) signed at its entrance(s) as a “dog exclusion area”.

3. Removing dog faeces

This order would require people in control of a dog to immediately remove faeces deposited by their dog within areas defined as follows: “All land which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment) in the Daventry district”. (Agricultural land would be excluded from this requirement).

4. Keeping a dog on a lead when directed to do so

This order would require people in control of a dog to put and keep it on a lead when told to do so by an authorised officer.

5. Set a specific figure for the maximum number of dogs allowed to be walked on land at one time.

This order would require owners to take no more than a specified number of dogs onto land at the same time. If adopted this control would reflect the number of dogs that a person can reasonably control at one time.