

# Responsible Dog Ownership

A cartoon illustration of a brown dog on the left, sitting and pointing its right paw towards the word 'Dog' in the title. On the right, a young boy with glasses, wearing a blue jacket, a blue and white striped hat, and blue shoes, stands looking towards the dog.

**Your Free Guide On How  
To Be A Better Dog Owner**



Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co Laois. [www.laois.ie](http://www.laois.ie)

## Dog Fouling

Dog faeces carry an infection known as toxocarasis, caused by roundworms in the dog's intestine. Under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, dog owners are legally obliged to clean up after their pets if they go to the toilet in public places eg on the street or in a park.

**When the dog does its business it's your business!!**



If you do not clean up after your pet, you are liable to receive an on-the-spot fine of €150, which if it is not paid, means you

can be brought to Court which can lead to a prosecution with a much larger penalty.

## Noise Pollution



**Look after your dog day and night – barking can be such a fright!**

Did you know that excessive dog barking that causes a nuisance is a legal offence? If you are bothered by persistent barking, talk to the owner in question. If this does not work, under the Control of Dogs Act 1986, you can lodge an official complaint with your local District Court. You will be given a date when your complaint will be heard and a copy of the

Section 25 Form. Write the name and address of the noisy dog's owner, your name, and the date and time when your complaint is to be heard in the District Court on the form. Sign and date it, and give it to the dog's owner 7 days before your complaint is due to be heard. The dog's owner has this time to resolve the problem.

## Dog Control & Dog Licences

In order to obtain a dog licence, you must be over 16 years of age. It is an offence for you to keep a dog unless you have a licence. All dogs over four months must have a licence. Your dog must be accompanied by and be under your effective control or the control of another responsible person if it is outside your home or premises or the home or premises of the person in charge of it. You can be requested by a dog warden to produce evidence of your dog licence and failure to do so can result in an on-the-spot fine. Failure to pay this fine within a specified period can result in prosecution by Laois County Council.



Dog licences are issued by your post office or Laois County Council. The revenue from dog licences finances the operation of dog control services in local areas throughout the country. **Cost: Individual 'Life' Dog Licence €140; Individual 'Annual' Dog Licence €20; Group Dog Licence €400.00.**

## Dog Tags & Microchips

Dogs must at all times wear a collar that bears the name and the address of the owner inscribed on it or on a plate, badge or disc. Failure to have identification on a dog can result in an on-the-spot fine issued by a dog warden. Failure to pay this fine within a specific period can result in prosecution by Laois County Council.

Micro-chipping of dogs will be mandatory by 2015, The Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013 requires that all dog owners to have their dogs micro-chipped, in the near future. Don't delay get a microchip implanted in your dog today, by your vet.



**Remember your dog is for life!** Be a responsible pet owner – log onto [www.ispca.ie](http://www.ispca.ie) to find out about neutering, microchipping, worming, vaccinating, house training, obedience classes, exercising and feeding.



For more detailed information on dog control, restricted breeds, rehoming and the Laois Dog Warden Service, please log on to **[www.laois.ie](http://www.laois.ie)**

**Dog Warden** Tristan Blundell: **057 873 4067**

**ISPCA** National Animal Cruelty Helpline: **1890 515 515**

**Freephone Laois County Council**

Confidential Litter Hotline: **1800 323230**



**Laois County Council,**  
**Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co Laois.**

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