



Have your say on the future  
Dog Control Orders



Dog Control Orders come to  
Northern Ireland



National Microchipping Month 2011



Open for Dogs Awards 2011

Dear **KC Dog Member**,

The Kennel Club campaigns on a wide variety of issues, and in this KC Dog bulletin we are asking all readers to get involved. Whether it's helping us to promote National Microchipping Month, or supporting our mission to increase the number of UK businesses that are Open for Dogs, we need you to spread the word! Read on to find out how you can help...

As ever, we also rely on our members to keep us up-to-date on dog control order consultations taking place across the country. To keep KC Dog informed, e-mail: [kcdog@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:kcdog@thekennelclub.org.uk), call **020 7518 1020**, or write to KC Dog at:  
**The Kennel Club, 1-5 Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London, W1J 8AB.**

Notices of dog control orders issued for consultation appear all year round on the 'latest news' section of the KC Dog web-page:  
[www.thekennelclub.org.uk/kcdog](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/kcdog).

KC Dog members can also communicate with each other directly via the Kennel Club page on Facebook.

Best wishes,

**The KC Dog Team**

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## 1. Have your say on the future of Dog Control Orders

The Government is asking members of the public to have their say on existing regulations. This is a great opportunity for the nation's dog owners to let the Coalition know the shortcomings of dog control order legislation introduced under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act in 2005.

### Problems with Dog Control Order Regulations

- The minimum statutory consultation process outlined by Defra guidelines has frequently failed to ensure systematic consultation with local dog walkers. All too often consultations are poorly publicised, resulting in restrictions being brought in without dog owners knowing about them or being able to have their say.
- The current legislation does not include an appeals/review process, meaning that local authorities are not under any obligation to review dog control orders once they have been passed. This can have a particularly strong impact in areas where dog control orders are severe or disproportionate to the problems faced.
- There is no centralised body of collection, so the number of dog control orders introduced across the country is unknown.
- Dog control orders can be passed in an open-ended fashion where land is not specified, meaning councils can potentially erect signs in additional areas without further consultation as and when they feel it's appropriate.
- Dog control orders are expensive to introduce; the consultation, implementation and enforcement of dog control orders can cost local authorities thousands of pounds.

Have your say by visiting: [tinyurl.com/redtapechallenge](http://tinyurl.com/redtapechallenge)

You can also write to your local MP: [www.theyworkforyou.com](http://www.theyworkforyou.com)



## 2. Dog Control Orders Come to Northern Ireland

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) is soon to gain Royal Assent, meaning that local authorities in Northern Ireland will be able to implement dog control orders. It could therefore only be a matter of time before dog control order consultations are launched by local authorities in Northern Ireland.

In order to promote and protect the rights of responsible dog owners living in the region, KC Dog needs you to keep us alerted to any consultations taking place in the future. If your council is considering the introduction of restrictions where you live, please contact the KC Dog team on **020 7518 1020**, or by email at [kcdog@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:kcdog@thekennelclub.org.uk).



## 3. Electric Shock Collar Court Case in Wales



The Kennel Club's successful campaign to ban the use of shock collars in Wales has been reaffirmed, after a man from the Vale of Glamorgan has become the first to be tried by a Welsh court for using an electric device on his Border Collie.

The Animal Welfare (Electronic Collars) (Wales) Regulations 2010 came into force on Wednesday **24 March 2010**, ending the sale and use of these devices within the Welsh Assembly's jurisdiction. The recent prosecution is a testament to effectiveness of the Welsh legislation, confirming that it is being properly enforced by the authorities.

Meanwhile, at Westminster, the Kennel Club is striving to secure an outright ban of these devices across the whole of the UK. Several Members of Parliament, including Simon Kirby MP, have put down parliamentary questions to find out the progress of Defra's research into the use of shock collars and when it will be published.

### ■ HAVE YOUR SAY ■

**Contact your MP today**, calling upon their party to take action against the sale and use of electric shock collars in Britain. Visit the Kennel Club website for more information:

[www.thekennelclub.org.uk/banshockcollars](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/banshockcollars).

## 4. National Microchipping Month



This June the KC Dog team will be supporting the eighth National Microchipping Month, helping campaign sponsor, Petlog, to raise awareness about the importance of microchipping your pets.



Petlog is the UK's largest pet microchipping and reunification database, answering over 100,000 calls in relation to lost and found pets over the last year alone.

This year's campaign message will focus on reminding all pet owners to keep their contact details up-to date on the microchipping database, as one of the most frustrating reasons behind a lost pet cannot be reunited with its owner is because the details linked to its microchip are out of date.

For this reason, throughout the month of June, people registered with Petlog will be able to go online and update their contact details for free or upgrade to Petlog Premium for a reduced cost if they are already on the Petlog database. Visit [www.petlog.org.uk](http://www.petlog.org.uk) for more information.



### ■ GET INVOLVED ■

Find out about National Microchipping Month activities in your area by visiting: [www.nationalmicrochippingmonth.org.uk](http://www.nationalmicrochippingmonth.org.uk).



## What's going on where you live...?

### England

National Microchipping Month 2011 will launch on 1st June at a secret location in London. Keep watching the Kennel Club Facebook and Twitter pages to find out what's happening and how you can get involved:

[facebook.com/Kclovesdogs](https://www.facebook.com/Kclovesdogs); [twitter.com/kclovesdogs](https://twitter.com/kclovesdogs).



### Scotland

The Kennel Club will be writing to all newly elected and re-elected Members of the Scottish Parliament on the issue of microchipping. Contact your local MSP and ask them to support our awareness campaign: [www.theyworkforyou.com](http://www.theyworkforyou.com).

### Wales

The KC Dog team will meet with Welsh Assembly Members on the steps of the Senned in Cardiff to discuss the benefits of microchipping. Look out for news stories in your local papers throughout June.

### Northern Ireland

The Kennel Club Public Affairs team and Petlog will join forces on a tour of Northern Ireland to promote National Microchipping Month across the region. We will be meeting with MLAs, local councillors and members of the public to highlight the importance of microchipping your pets.

## 5. Open for Dogs Competition

The Kennel Club is once again on the hunt for Britain's most dog friendly business as it launches the Open for Dogs Awards 2011. So, KC Dog readers, this is your chance to let us know about a place or venue in the UK that has pulled out all the stops for you and your four-legged friends.



The categories at this year's awards are:

- Somewhere to **Sleep** – hotels, B&Bs etc.
- Somewhere to **Eat** – restaurants, cafes etc.
- Somewhere to **Drink** – pubs, bars etc.
- Somewhere to **Visit** – museums, sanctuaries, visitor centres etc.
- Somewhere to **Holiday** – campsites, caravan parks etc.
- **Other** – shops, offices etc.
- **Dog Friendly Care Homes**

A prize of **Special Recognition** will also be awarded to a business that the Kennel Club identifies as going that extra mile for its canine customers.

To make your nomination, simply go to: [www.openfordogs.org.uk](http://www.openfordogs.org.uk). You will also gain automatic entry into our free prize draw to win an Open for Dogs goodie bag, which includes tickets to Discover Dogs at Earl's Court 1 this November. The competition closes on **19 August 2011**.

## 6. Campaign in Focus

Kate Pittel and Jane Chatterton have been campaigning against **Warwickshire District Council's** dog control order proposals for six months. If passed, many popular dog walking areas becoming exclusion zones, or will require dogs to be kept on leads. KC Dog Co-ordinator, Fern Howard, speaks to them about the fight to protect access for responsible dog walkers living in the local area.

### What motivated you to campaign against the dog control orders?

We tried to speak to the members of the Council ourselves, but they would not listen. We had no choice but to **mobilise the local dog walking community** and take action.

### What action have you taken?

We organised a meeting at the local golf course [one of the areas included in the dog control order proposals], sticking up **posters** and handing out **leaflets** to make sure that people would come and have their say. The turnout was very impressive, and showed just how many people were prepared to speak out against the proposals. To maintain such strong support, we set up a **Facebook page** and established an **email list** to keep people up to date with any campaign news; this now totals over 200 members. The **petition** which we started has now generated approximately 1,000 signatures, and the numbers are still growing.

### How have you raised the profile of your campaign?

In April, we held a **protest march** in Leamington, which attracted the attention of the local press and resulted in an extra 400 people signing our petition.

### What are your plans for the future?

We are working with the golf course to produce a **code of conduct**, reminding dog walkers of their responsibilities in order to protect access to the site. We are also contacting local businesses, asking them to **sponsor poo bins**. We hope that the Council will see that dog control orders are not necessary if we work together to eradicate the problems caused by irresponsible owners.

### What is your top campaigning tip?

Don't give up, and don't be intimidated! You can make a difference.



Have you been inspired by Kate and Jane's story? If your local authority is looking to introduce draconian restrictions, you too can start a campaign to ensure that dogs can continue to enjoy local open spaces. **Contact the KC Dog Team** for more information and advice on campaigning at [kcdog@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:kcdog@thekennelclub.org.uk).

To join the campaign in Warwick, visit: [letdogsplay@groups.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/letdogsplay).

## 7. Dog Control Orders Open to Consultation

### i) Merthyr Tydfil

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council is seeking to operate dog control orders in Cyfarthfa Park. If passed, dogs will be banned from entering the sports pitch at the western end of the park, the Council Parks work depot, the castle, the splash play area, the artificial turf pitch and the lake. Dogs will also be required to be kept on leads in specified areas of the park, and irresponsible owners found not to clean up after their dogs will be fined. A public consultation to consider these proposals will run until midnight on **20 May**. KC Dog readers can have their say on this matter by emailing the Legal Division at [dogcontrolconsultation@merthr.gov.uk](mailto:dogcontrolconsultation@merthr.gov.uk).

### ii) Torridge

More than two years after it first looked into introducing dog control orders, Torridge District Council has re-launched a consultation which could see dogs banned from vast areas of the locality. KC Dog is concerned that the wording of the dog control order exclusion schedule means that any park, recreational facility, beach or foreshore could become a dog free zone at the Council's say-so, without further consultation. We are therefore urging any members living in Torridge to respond to the consultation as a matter of urgency as, if passed, this could have disastrous consequences for dog walkers in the area. Send your representations to: Dog Control Orders Consultation, Riverbank House, Bideford, EX39 2QG by **19 May**.

### iii) Groby

KC Dog is concerned over a set of dog control order proposals put forward by Groby Parish Council in a recently launched public consultation. Vast areas of the Parish's open spaces could become dogs on leads or dog exclusion zones if the Council's plans are pursued. Have your say on this issue before **30 June** by writing to: The Clerk to the Council, Parish Council Offices, Village Hall, Leicester Road, Groby, Leicester, LE6 0DQ, or email [parishclerk@groby.com](mailto:parishclerk@groby.com).

## 8. Dog Control Orders Updates

### i) Chesterfield

Chesterfield Council is hoping to introduce fines for anyone not keeping their dog on a lead or picking up dog mess in any of the Borough's Cemeteries, Crematoria and Closed Churchyards. The consultation closed at the beginning of the month, and KC Dog will let you know the outcome in due course.

## ii) Northumberland

Last year, KC Dog responded to a consultation launched by Northumberland County Council to consider a variety of dog control orders. These orders have now been passed. In addition to county-wide dog fouling and dogs on leads by direction orders, dogs will now be excluded from children's play areas and will be required to be kept on a lead on carriageways, footpaths and memorial grounds. There will also be seasonal dog bans (**1 May - 30 September**) on specified sections of the beach at Newbiggin and Blythe.

## iii) Bournemouth

The dog control orders considered by Bournemouth Borough Council earlier this year have now been approved by Cabinet. As of **17 May**, dog walkers in Bournemouth must observe area-wide dog fouling and dogs on leads by direction orders, as well as on-lead restrictions and exclusion zones on certain sites. Visit the Council website for further details: [www.bournemouth.gov.uk/parks](http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/parks).

## iv) Staffordshire Moorlands

In April, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council consulted on a number of dog control orders, including district-wide dog fouling and dogs on leads by direction orders. The council is also looking to introduce orders which will make it a requirement for dogs to be kept on leads in named cemeteries and ornamental gardens, as well as banning dogs from all children's play areas. KC Dog is now waiting to hear the outcome of the consultation and will let you know any information as soon as it becomes available.

## v) Newham

Last December, we reported that Newham Council was consulting on dog control orders. KC Dog has now learnt that the Council has passed these orders, meaning that dog owners in Newham will be subject to restrictions, including designated dog exclusion zones and on-lead areas. The number of dogs that can be walked by a single person at one time has now been limited to four. The Council has produced an information leaflet explaining the orders. You can view it here: <http://tiny.cc/ljsqO>

## vi) Hounslow

Hounslow Council has introduced the following dog control orders:

- Dog fouling
- Dogs on leads by direction
- Dog exclusion
- Specified maximum of dogs walked by one person limited to four

For a detailed schedule of the orders, please visit <http://tiny.cc/or761>.

## 9. Areas to Watch

### i) Banwell

Reports in the local news suggest that Banwell Parish Council is looking to impose dog control orders at the Riverside and an area surrounding the village bowling green. An article suggests that a request has been filed with North Somerset Council, with a decision expected to be taken later this year. If you have any information regarding these considerations, please contact KC Dog at [kcdog@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:kcdog@thekennelclub.org.uk).



*Presented by*



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