

Sturmer Parish Council – Dog Policy

Sturmer Parish Council would like you and your dogs to enjoy public spaces such as the Railway Amenity Walk and Village Green (52) at Coupals Road. Whilst the Railway Amenity Walk passes through the Pocket Park, dogs are discouraged from entering the children's play areas and near any equipment.

We also want to protect wildlife habitats, nesting birds and other animals, and of course keep people safe; without feeling fearful, so please keep your dogs under close control.

You do not have to put your dogs on a lead, as long as they are under close control. But as a general rule, keep your dogs on a lead if you cannot rely on their obedience. Many people, particularly children, are fearful when a dog approaches them. Do not let your dog jump up at other people using the same space.

Put your dogs on a lead if they fail to come back promptly on command or if they have a tendency to chase wildlife.

Keep your dogs in sight as a dog out of sight may be a dog out of control.

Keep your dogs close at all times but particularly when being approached by children, joggers or cyclists who are using the same space.

Dog Fouling

Clean up after your dogs. Dog waste bins are provided in areas where people commonly exercise their dogs and which are accessible for collection. However, if one is not nearby, you may need to take it home. Do not leave bags of dog excrement around the village. The absence of a dog waste bin is not a reasonable defence for not clearing up after dogs in your care. Dog fouling may attract a £50 fixed penalty notice and if the fine is not paid within the required timescale this may lead to court action. If found guilty, you may face a fine of £1000 plus costs.

Lost and Stray Dogs

If you lose your dog in Sturmer, you should report it to Braintree District Council either online or by calling them on 01376 552525. If it is out of hours, leave your details for a return call. They may be able to reunite you with your dog if someone has found it. BDC will keep a stray dog for 7 days. They will not take a stray dog in on Sundays or Bank Holidays but they will register it. A local vet may be willing to take in a stray dog during these times. Further details can be found: <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/advice-environment/dogs>

Dogs Around Farm Animals; e.g. Cattle, Sheep and Horses

Keep your dog on a short lead around any farm animals and discourage barking. By law, farmers are entitled to destroy a dog that injures or worries their animals.

Microchipping, Collars and Tags

By law you must fit your dogs with a microchip by the time they are 8 weeks old and keep your dog's microchip information up to date. If you do not do this, you could face a fine of up to £500. A microchip does not replace a collar and tag, so your dog will still need to wear these when out in public. Info at: www.gov.uk

The Control of Dogs Order 1992 states that any dog in a public place must wear a collar with the name, address and postcode of the owner engraved or written on it, or engraved on a tag. A telephone number is optional. You can receive a fine of up to £5,000 if your dog does not wear an identification tag.