

## HEALTH

**Vets** - Register your dog with a vet. Don't wait for your dog to become ill and then find a vet who can help.

**Vaccinations** - These are the only way to help protect your pet against some of the most dangerous diseases that affect dogs. Your vet will give your pet its first jabs when it is about 8 weeks old. Your vet will also advise you when a booster jab is necessary. Always keep your dog's vaccination certificates.



**Worming** - Worms can affect dogs at any age. Ask your vet for advice about worming your puppy. Dogs should be wormed every 6 months. Worming tablets are available from most supermarkets.

**Fleas** - As soon as your dog shows signs of having fleas then treat your pet and all the areas in the flat that it gets into, with reliable flea spray or powder. Contact your vet if there are any problems or the condition persists.

**Grooming** - A dog should be bathed when necessary using a dog shampoo. Regular grooming will help to keep its coat clean.

**Neutering** - Bitches should be spayed to prevent unwanted puppies. Your vet will be able to advise you about spraying and also about castration of a male dog.



## GENERAL

**Barking** - It is natural for a dog to bark. However constant barking or whining can cause a nuisance to neighbours and the dog owner may face legal action if no steps are taken to stop the noise. Dogs may bark due to loneliness – you should not leave the dog on its own in your flat for long periods of time. Other reasons for barking are boredom, attention seeking, defending their territory and medical problems. The best way to solve the problem is to train the dog properly.



**Dog Wardens** - Your local Council provide a Dog Warden service to control the stray dog problem as well as promoting responsible dog ownership.

They can be contacted in the following numbers: *Aberdeen* 01224 523737 *Moray* 01343 544411 *Aberdeenshire* 01779 475183 *(North)* 01467 628683 *(Central)* 01569 768224 *(South)*

**Microchipping** - This involves the insertion of a tiny microchip under the dog's skin at the back of its neck. This area can then be scanned to reveal a code which allows access to the owner's name and address. Any dog found can be returned to its owner quickly. Your veterinary surgeon can provide details of Microchipping and the costs involved.

# Living with Dogs



Langstane Housing  
Association



Registered Scottish Charity SC 01 1754

## LANGSTANE TENANTS

Langstane tenants must have permission to keep a dog in their flat. You should apply to the Neighbourhood Services Team before keeping a dog in your home. Permission is granted on the following conditions:

- The dog must be kept under control at all times and not cause a nuisance or annoyance to other tenants
- The dog must not foul communal areas, footpaths or amenity areas within the scheme
- The dog must not be allowed to roam free and must be kept on a lead when outside your home
- The dog will bear its owner's name and address at all times by means of a suitable disk or collar



## DOGS AND THE LAW

- Under the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003, it is an offence for a person in charge of a dog to fail to remove and dispose of appropriately any excrement after the dog has fouled. This act applies to all places and includes common passages, back greens, stairs and other similar areas. Offenders may receive a Fixed Penalty of £40, rising to £60 if not paid within 28 days. Offenders may also be reported to the Procurator Fiscal and may be subject to a fine of up to £500 if convicted
- You **must not** allow your dog to be a source of danger or nuisance. Langstane Housing Association is entitled to ask you to remove the pet if it is causing a nuisance or damage. **Failure to comply can lead to your tenancy being terminated.**
- All dogs **must** be under the control of a responsible person
- You must not allow your dog to stray or enter a children's playground
- Every dog, while in a public place, **must** wear a collar with the owner's address inscribed on a tag attached to it
- There are special laws concerning dogs bred for fighting



## RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP

### Dog Fouling - What should dog owners do?

Responsible owners do not allow their dogs to foul public places. Ideally, dogs should be trained from an early age to "go at home" in their own garden (if applicable) before or after a walk, rather than during. If dog fouling does occur away from the home the responsible owner will clean up after the dog. Any suitable plastic bag can be used, or special poop-scoop bags can be purchased from pet shops, veterinary surgeries or stores. Dispose of faeces in a poop-scoop bin or take the bag home. If this is not possible, as a last resort double wrap the faeces in two plastic bags and dispose of in a litter bin.

Knowing how to poop-scoop can stop you incurring the wrath of the law. Simply place a bag over the dog mess and lift it whilst pulling the bag downwards. Alternatively, you can also use two pieces of cardboard to scoop the poop and put it in the bag. Tie a knot in the bag and dispose of it in a poop-scoop bin or take it home for disposal. Make sure your hands do not come into contact with the faeces.



### Points to consider before getting a dog

Q: Can I afford to keep a dog?

A: *Looking after a dog involves spending money on food, vet bills, and boarding kennel costs.*

Q: What breed of dog should I choose?

A: *Different breeds of dog grow to different sizes. They also have different habits, temperaments and live to different ages.*

Q: Do I have the room?

A: *You must have room in your flat for a dog. Always remember how big a puppy will grow.*

Q: Will I have the time to look after a dog?

A: *It takes time to look after a dog properly.*

Q: Am I fit enough to keep a dog?

A: *Dogs need regular exercise and lots of it. You must exercise your dog regularly and have to be fit enough to do it. Less active people should consider an older dog, as these are generally less active. By getting an older dog from the SSPCA or the dog and cat home, you may save it from being put to sleep.*

Q: Am I prepared to train and control my dog adequately?

A: *Dogs have to be taught how to behave. You can't expect them just to know how to do things properly. Without proper training you may never have proper control over your dog and the law says you must control your dog.*