

STRAY DOGS AND THE LAW

Did you know that your Council Taxes pay for the collection and care of stray dogs and that the dog warden service is also responsible for ensuring an injured stray dog receives veterinary attention?

Out of office hours an injured stray dog will be treated by Petmedics Veterinary Centre, but you **must** report the found dog to the police who will advise on the correct telephone number to ring.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec 150 requires the finder of a stray dog to:

- return the dog to its owner; or
- contact the local authority for the area in which the dog was found; or

If the finder fails to take one of these courses of action, he will have committed an offence and would be liable, upon conviction, to a fine.

If the finder requests to keep the dog, he must supply the dog warden with his contact details and details of the dog. The officer is required to keep a record of these details.

Regulations require that the officer makes appropriate enquiries to ascertain that the finder is a suitable person to keep the dog. The finder must then be informed verbally and in writing that he is obliged to keep the dog (if unclaimed by the owner) for not less than one month and that failure to comply with that obligation is a criminal offence.

WHAT DOES THE RSPCA DO TO HELP OTHER INJURED STRAY ANIMALS?

In order to alleviate immediate suffering stray, injured animals taken by members of the public to private veterinary practices are treated at RSPCA National Society's expense. Any additional treatment needed over and above this initial emergency treatment is paid for via local branch funds raised through collections, special events, such as dog shows, and private donations to the branch by members of the public.

CHANGES TO THE LAW

Local authorities no longer receive police support and are entirely responsible for the care and collection of straying dogs. RSPCA Tameside and Glossop Branch are urging local residents to request their local council to provide an out of hours dog warden service, so that a stray dog and its owner can be reunited as quickly as possible.

