

Some Simple Steps to Stop Your Dog Straying

A dog can go missing for all sorts of reasons – a moment's inattention, a missing panel in the garden fence, a door or gate left ajar, fireworks or other sudden loud noises such as thunder or vehicles. An unneutered male dog in particular is more likely to stray from an owner's property if there is an unspayed female dog in 'season' in the area. All these and more can cause dogs to find themselves lost.

- Ensure that all fences around your home are secure, and that gates have a closing device.
- Train your dog not to run off when you are out walking, and always make sure you can see your dog.
- Give your dog plenty of exercise and provide toys etc. – they are more likely to run off and stray if they're bored!
- Do not let your dog out to roam – always make sure that there is someone with the dog that can keep it under control.
- **Tethering a Dog - We do not recommend that you tether a dog.** If however, there is no alternative, ensure it is clipped to the tether by a harness not a collar as the dog could injure its neck or strangle itself. A dog must always have access to water and shelter. Tethering must only be done as a last resort. If you do need to leave your dog tethered only do so for a limited amount of time.
- Neuter your dog – it's better for its health, and helps to stop it wanting to escape. Contact your vet for information.



LOST OR STRAY DOGS

A dog can go missing for all sorts of reasons

Avoid a fine.
Check the chip
Microchip your dog.
Keep details up to date.

Follow our simple steps to keep your pet safe.



You can report stray dogs at:

www.dover.gov.uk/dogwarden

Telephoning: **01304 872289**

Emailing: envcrime@dover.gov.uk

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Dover District Council's Dog Warden Service **took in over 60 stray dogs between April 2023 and March 2024**. Stray dogs can potentially harm themselves, other animals and people.

Follow our advice to avoid losing your pet, keeping them safely under your care and control.

Common ways dogs escape/stray

Please remember that it is the person in charge of the dog that is responsible for ensuring it doesn't escape.

● Through the Front Door

If the dog can escape out of the front door when you open it to a caller you should consider using a baby gate to contain the dog in a suitable part of the house such as the kitchen. You can put in several, including one at the bottom of the stairs, to limit the parts of the house the dog can use. Baby gates are preferable to shutting a dog in another room as they can see what is going on and are less likely to feel excluded.

● Through the garden gate or broken fence

Check your garden to see if the dog can escape through an open gate or damaged fence. If necessary, put a self-closing fitting on your gate. These can be bought at most DIY stores.

If a gate or fence is damaged, do not let your dog out into the garden on its own until the damage has been repaired. If you live in a rented house, please be aware that it is generally the responsibility of the tenant to make these repairs not the landlord.

● Over the Fence

If the dog can jump the garden fencing you will need to consider ways of making the fence taller although it should be no taller than 2 metres. Placing trellis on the top may be a suitable solution.



● Workmen in the house?

If you have workmen in your house or garden, shut your dog in another room or ask a neighbour to look after them whilst the work is being carried out. You should not give responsibility for keeping your dog secure to the workmen!

Remember

● Do not allow your dog to roam

It is not acceptable to allow your dog to roam around the area in which you live. You must always keep your dog under control, at all times as well as safe and secure. A roaming dog can be a nuisance to your neighbours and other passers-by. It could get run over by a car or cause a car to swerve and hit a person or another car. If your dog persistently strays, the local authority could consider serving you with a Community Protection Notice formally requiring you to put measures in place to prevent your dog from straying.

● Avoid the penalty fee for allowing your dog to stray

If your dog is collected as a stray you will have to pay the transportation, kennelling, veterinary costs, admin costs and penalty fee to get your dog back.

● Microchipping your dog

All dogs must be microchipped and wear a collar and tag whilst in a public place. All chips must be registered with the chip database and the details kept up to date. If you lose your dog and it has been microchipped, a vet or the kennels can call the microchip database and get your details so they can contact you directly. If the details are not up to date they will not be able to contact you.



Please note - it is both a legal requirement to have your dog chipped and to keep the database up to date. Failure to do this may lead to a fine of £500.

● Collar and Tag

When outside your home, your dog must wear a collar and a tag with your contact details on it (as stated under the Control of Dogs Order 1992). If it's wearing a collar and tag, the finder will be more likely to return your dog directly to you rather than handing it in as a stray.

Not only will you and your dog be reunited much more quickly, it will also mean that you won't have to pay any costs.

● Avoid a fine

Make sure your dog wears a collar and tag with your address and phone number.

For security, don't include your dog's name.

