



St Cuthbert (Out) Parish Council

c/o Monitoring Officer Mendip District Council

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PARISH GUIDE

Lost and Stray Dogs

The Law: The Control of Dogs Order 1992

A dog must:

- Be fitted with a microchip by the time it is 8 weeks old. Microchips must be fitted by a trained professional, and details entered on an approved national database. A local veterinary centre can perform the procedure.
- When in a public place, wear a collar and tag with the owner's name and address (and preferably a contact number).

Failure to comply with the law can result in fines up to £5,000.

What to do if you find a stray dog

You must return a stray dog to its owner if you know who the owner is. If you do not know who the owner is, you should contact the Stray Dog Service via the [online form](#). The Council's Stray Dog Service can only collect stray dogs if they are confined or secured within the Mendip area.

What to do if you cannot reunite a dog with its owner.

If the dog has no identification or you have been unable to return it to the owner, you may report it to the Stray Dog Service, providing that you have secured the dog in your possession. The law requires dogs to wear a collar and identification tag with the owner's contact details, when out in public and now requires all dogs to be microchipped.

If you find a dog that has a collar and tag, please try and return it to the owner. If the dog has no identification or you have been unable to return it to the owner, you may report it to the Stray Dog Service, providing that you have secured the dog in your possession.

Please note the Police are not responsible for managing reports of stray dogs.

What happens next

Dogs collected in the Mendip area go to kennels near Weston-super-Mare where they stay for a week or two to see if their owners turn up. If not, they are handed into the care of **White House Kennels & Cattery** for re-housing. Stray dogs are not put down unless there is a compelling humanitarian reason.

The contact number for this kennels is 01934 750352. Out-of-office hours 07525 984765.

Lost dogs

To report a lost dog, your first contact should be Somerset Council's 'Report a lost or stray dog' [online form](#). You may also like to check [Mendip's Lost Dog Register](#).

This is updated regularly and shows dogs collected by the council's Stray Dog Service and taken to kennels.

All dogs collected are scanned for microchips to try and identify owners. So long as your dog has a collar and tag and/or is microchipped, the above kennels may be able to identify the owner of a dog that comes into their care.

Kennel Fees

Every effort is made to return the dog to its owner before it is taken to kennels. If your dog is taken to kennels you can expect to pay at least £69 to retrieve it on the first day, and a further £16.50 each day afterwards.

Dogs can be collected from the kennelling facility between 10am - 12noon and 3 - 5pm 7 days a week. To contact the kennelling facility phone **01934 750352**.

Dogs not retrieved within 7 days will pass into the ownership of the council and may be re-homed.

Local veterinary practices can also offer advice and if asked will scan a stray dog for its microchip ID. Local practices co-operate in identifying owners of stray dogs where they have prior knowledge/medical records for a dog.