

Winchester City Council Stray Dog Fees and Charges

The following fees and charges shall be levied for stray dogs within Winchester City Council's jurisdiction:

- Day 1 £119
- Day 2 £156
- Day 3 £193
- Day 4 £230
- Day 5 £267
- Day 6 £306
- Day 7 £343

These fees include the statutory fee of £25, a single collection/administration fee of £47 and a £37 kennelling fee per day or part day. Please note that these charges also include a £10 reclaim fee levied by the kennelling provider.

After Day 7 Winchester City Council has the legal right to take steps to rehome the dog.

If the dog has received any veterinary treatment or incurred any other fees, then the claimant, without exception, will be charged these costs. Details of the treatment administered, together with associated costs shall be given to the claimant.

Terms and Conditions

If the owner can be contacted immediately and the dog is returned to its owner within half an hour of collection, or any additional time as deemed appropriate by the Dog Warden Service, then there will be no charge, as long as it's the first time the dog has strayed. This will be contingent upon the dog being correctly tagged and microchipped with the owner's current details, and on the owner being able to make immediate arrangements to receive or collect the dog.

Winchester City Council's Dog Warden Service and their kennelling provider shall ensure that it fulfils its duty of care to all dogs that come into its possession in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

If a dog is delivered to and received by the kennels, then the first day charge shall be invoked even if a claimant collects the dog within a short time frame. An additional day's charge shall be levied as soon as 12 noon passes on a subsequent day.

If the owner of the dog is known; in accordance with section 149 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, they shall be notified that the dog has been seized by Winchester City Council and how they can claim the dog; this will be in writing if they can not be contacted by other means. This notice shall also state that the dog will be liable to be disposed of if it is not claimed with all charges paid, within seven clear days of the notice.

If a dog is not claimed, collected and the appropriate fees paid by the end of seven clear days from it coming under the control of Winchester City Council, Winchester City Council is legally entitled to rehome the dog or, if the Council does not consider it safe or possible to do so, to destroy it.

Only in the rarest of circumstances will the dog be euthanised. This may occur for four reasons only:

- That the health and condition of the animal is so severe that such action is required to save the animal from unnecessary suffering. This will be determined based upon a veterinary assessment;
- That the animal's behaviour renders it unsuitable for rehoming. This assessment will be made by a suitably experienced officer of the Council.
- That all efforts to find a home or rescue space for the dog have proven unsuccessful.
- That the dog is a banned type or breed under section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Rehoming

Most dogs will not be rehomed directly by the Council but will be passed to a dog rescue society.

Where a dog is rehomed directly to a member of the public, the Dog Warden Service shall undertake a 'home check' to take into account the home environment, assessing the occupant's suitability in association with the bespoke needs of the dog.

Once rehomed, the new owners will be given a 28 day 'adjustment period' during which time Winchester City Council will take back the dog upon request. After 28 days have expired Winchester City Council's Stray Dog Service will assist the new owners in rehoming the dog if they no longer wish to keep it. However if more than 120 days have passed since the dog was rehomed then the new owners will be fully responsible for it and Winchester City Council will no longer assist in the animal being rehomed. As such the new owners will be expected to rehome the dog.

Liability

Whilst Winchester City Council will take all practicable steps to ensure that the dog is correctly rehomed, once a dog has been rehomed Winchester City Council will not be held responsible for its behaviour that may result in physical damage to property or persons. The new owner will be expected to sign a disclaimer to this effect.

In rehoming a dog, Winchester City Council will endeavour to determine any obvious signs of ill health and bring this to the attention of the new owner. Should any subsequent health issues become apparent subsequent to rehoming, Winchester City Council shall not be held liable. Similarly the new owner, upon taking receipt of the animal, will assume full responsibility for its welfare, including any veterinary costs.

Legislation

All actions outlined above are taken in accordance with sections 149 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Microchipping & Collar and Tag:

Please note that it is an offence for a dog owner not to comply with **all 3** of the requirements below;

- Keep a collar with a tag bearing the current keeper's and/or the owner's name and address on your dog in a public place.
- Have a microchip implanted in your dog and submit your details to an approved microchip database.
- Keep the microchip database details current at all times (this includes the name, address and telephone number of the current keeper of the dog).