

## Buying a Puppy

Tips for buying a puppy if rehoming is not for you and your family:

- Do your research: make sure the breeder is reputable and licensed. See our website for a list of licensed breeders in the Maldon district.
- Choose the right breed: pick a breed that fits your lifestyle.
- Understand the costs involved: be prepared for the financial responsibility such as food, vet bills and supplies.
- Plan for care: who will look after your puppy when you're at work or on holiday?
- Meet the mother: always view the puppy with its mother to ensure proper socialisation.
- Age: Puppies must be at least 8 weeks old and fully weaned before they are separated from their mother.
- Microchipped: all puppies over 8 weeks old must be microchipped. The breeder will provide the documentation before you take the puppy home.



## The Animal Welfare Act 2006 The five animal welfare needs

- Need for a suitable environment - you must provide a clean and suitable environment for your dog to sleep.
- Need for a suitable diet - you must provide fresh water and a diet suitable for the age of your dog.
- Need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns - you must provide regular exercise e.g. walks and play to stimulate your dog.
- Need to be housed with or apart from other animals - dogs are social animals so like to be around people and other dogs. If they are housed with other animals ensure they have places to go to be apart, if they choose to do so.
- Need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease - you must register your dog with a vet so they have annual health checks, yearly vaccinations and regular treatment for fleas and worms.



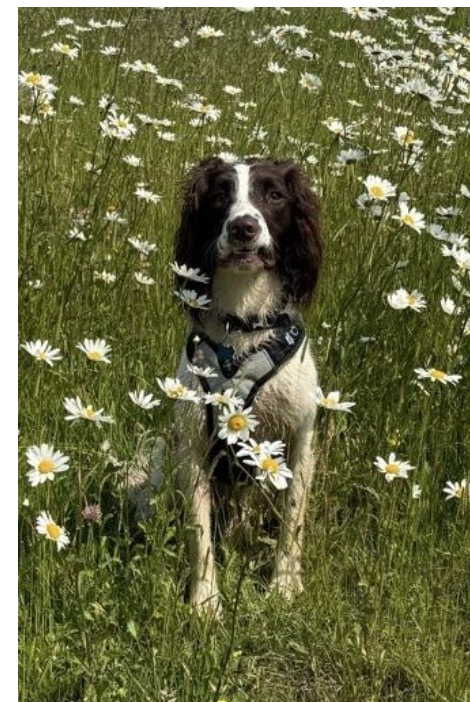
**MALDON**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices  
Princes Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 5DL  
01621 854477



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## Responsible Dog Ownership



## Microchipping

- Your dog must be microchipped and registered on a government approved database and must be wearing a collar and identity tag when in a public place.
- You must keep your contact details up to date. The database must be notified of any change in ownership or contact details, such as a phone number or address.
- If you do not know which database your dog is registered on, then you can check the microchip number here: [www.check-a-chip.co.uk](http://www.check-a-chip.co.uk)
- If you do not know the microchip number, you can ask a vet, dog warden or dog rescue centre to scan your dog for it.
- It is illegal to take ownership of a puppy that is not microchipped and registered on a database.

Microchipping and tagging a dog makes reuniting lost/stray dogs with their owners quicker and easier.

Failure to adhere to The Microchipping of Cats & Dogs (England) Regulations 2023 is an offence with a maximum penalty of £500.

## Stray Dogs

- If you find a stray dog, you should check the tag for a contact number.
- If the dog doesn't have one, contact the Local Authority of the area where the dog was found. The Dog Warden can try and reunite with its owner.
- Every dog picked up is checked over for any obvious injuries and taken to a vet if necessary. The dog is taken to a rescue kennel. After 7 days, if the dog isn't claimed, the kennel will try to rehome.
- Vet advice is sought and unless the dog is in a lot of pain or has a life-threatening condition, the dog will not be put to sleep.

To reduce your dog straying steps to take are:

- Ensure that all garden fences/gates are secure especially after bad weather.
- Neutering your dog will reduce the want for your dog to stray.



Visit:  
[www.maldon.gov.uk](http://www.maldon.gov.uk) or  
you can report a lost or  
found dog by calling  
01621 854477

## Neutering

Having your dog neutered is a way of reducing the stray dog population, a lot of unneutered male dogs will seek to stray if they can smell a bitch in season. Females in season may seek to stray in search of finding a mate. Other reasons to neuter are:

- It encourages calmer behaviour
- Can help reduce aggression

## Dog Fouling



As well as being unpleasant, anti social and unsightly, dog mess spreads disease. It is the duty of every dog owner or walker to clean up after their dog.

- It is an offence not to remove dog faeces and those caught will receive a £100 fixed penalty notice.
- Always have a spare dog poo bag with you.
- Tie the bag and bin it, or take it home.
- A normal litter bin is fine to use if there is no designated dog waste bin nearby.