



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE DogWatchMembers

General Information

Thank you for your membership to Dog Watch. It was launched in this county in 2011 at Pets at Home in Wellingborough and membership now exceeds 1200. Dog Watch administration is located at the East Northants Neighbourhood Watch office based at Wellingborough Police Station.

As you will know we rely on members to report anything they find that is not right. It may be a dumped vehicle, graffiti, drug needles, dumped waste etc. You become the eyes and ears of our towns and countryside and can report to the relevant authority what you find with the contact numbers we provide you and are also noted within this information. You do not have to have a dog to join Dog Watch, just enjoy getting out and about but it is dogs that might stray into places off the beaten track and may find an item that could link with a crime and help our police in their investigations.

If you know someone who may wish to join this free Dog Watch service and receive a Dog Watch badge then either contact the Neighbourhood Watch office by calling 101 or complete an application form online at www.northamptonshiredogwatch.co.uk

Thank you for your support and if you do have cause to make a report about something that is particularly significant then I would like to hear about it. Please send an email to Dog Watch Co-ordinator christine.mackenzie@northants.pnn.police.uk

I hope you find the notes enclosed useful.

Contacts for your area:

Corby Borough Council: tel.01536 464000
Environmental Services tel.01536 464242

East Northamptonshire Council: tel.01832 742000
Dog Warden tel.01832 742000

Daventry District Council: tel.01327 871100
Dog Warden tel.01327 871100

Kettering Borough Council: tel.01536 410333
Dog Warden tel.01536 410333

Northampton Borough Council:03003 307000
Dog Warden tel.03003 307000

South Northamptonshire Council: tel.01327 322322
Dog Warden tel.01327 322322

Wellingborough Borough Council: tel.01933 229777
Environmental Services tel.01933 231960

In all areas dial 999 in an Emergency or 101 for non-emergency calls

OTHER CONTACTS INFORMATION

Neighbourhood Watch/Dog Watch Support Team based at:

Wellingborough Police Station

Midland Road

Wellingborough NN8 1HF

The Station is open to the public Mon-Sat. 10am-4pm

NHW/Dog Watch Support Team Staff We are here to help, so if you have a query, contact us.

General Office enquiries: leave a message on 101 extension 341148

Mary Prickett, Manager of East Northants Support Team & Dog Watch and assists with Neighbourhood Alerts (also Treasurer for the County Executive). Contact Mary on Wednesdays & Fridays from 9–11am or leave a message on ext. 348046 or email: mary.prickett@northants.pnn.police.uk

Christine MacKenzie, General Office & Dog Watch Administrator available on Mondays from 9.15–12 noon, tel. ext. 344808 or email: christine.mackenzie@northants.pnn.police.uk

Kathleen (Kath) MacKenzie, Police Volunteer, assists with Neighbourhood Alerts, Dog Watch events and NHW administration – tel: ext. 341148 or email: kathleen.mackenzie@northants.pnn.police.uk

999 for Emergency - If a life is at risk (e.g. fight in the street) **or** witness a crime in progress (e.g. burglary) **you do not have to give your details, just say you are a concerned resident**

101 - Police non-emergency - to report a crime or incident that has already happened, to speak to your local Safer Community Team or any other officer or member of staff, to give information about crime or criminals in your area or to make a general enquiry.

DOG LAW & SERVICES:

The Dog Warden Service covers these key areas:

Dog Control Orders - fouling, dogs on leads and exclusion orders

straying - lost dogs and unattended dogs

dog identification - collar/tag and microchips

The Police deal with:

- dangerous dogs
- banned breeds
- dog attacks on people
- The RSPCA deal with:** welfare concerns such as cruelty and neglect

Environmental Protection – see your local council for complaints about barking dogs

Issues such as a neighbour's dog coming into your garden; a problem with dog fouling in your property or a dog attack on another dog are usually private, civil matters which the dog warden has no powers to resolve. However, advice may be given to help reach a resolution.

Animal Welfare Act 2006 The Animal Welfare Act was introduced on April 6th 2007. The Act increased and introduced new penalties to tackle acts of cruelty, neglect, mutilation, tail docking, animal fighting and giving pets as prizes. In addition to this it introduced a duty of care for all pet owners to provide for their animals a suitable environment, a suitable diet, the ability to exhibit normal behaviour patterns, protection from pain, suffering, injury and disease and consideration of the animal's needs to be housed with, or apart from, other animals.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 also applies in Wales. In Scotland the Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 makes similar provisions, as does the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act of 2005

Under this Act, you could be fined up to £1,000 for breaching Dog Control Orders. Dog Control Orders were introduced by some local authorities for offences including: failing to remove dog faeces, not keeping a dog on a lead, not putting and keeping a dog on a lead when directed to do so, permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded and taking more than a specified number of dogs on to land. The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act also updated the law on stray dogs by transferring the responsibility for strays from the police to the local authorities.

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

Since October 2014, Dog Control Orders have been replaced by 'Public Spaces Protection Orders' introduced under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The local authorities will have similar powers to introduce orders except there will be no requirements to advertise PSPO consultations in local newspapers. The Government has advised in guidance that local authorities consult with dog owners groups such as KC Dog prior to introducing 'Public Spaces Protection Orders'. Dog Control Orders and 'Public Spaces Protection Orders' do not apply in Scotland. Scotland is covered by different legislation that covers most land north of the border; in England, Wales and Northern Ireland specific areas are designated instead.

Dog Identification The Control of Dogs Order 1992

This mandates that any dog in a public place must wear a collar with the name and address of the owner engraved or written on it, or engraved on a tag. Your telephone number is optional (but advisable). The Kennel Club can provide tags. Certain dogs are exempt from having to wear a collar with a dog tag. They are:

- Any dog registered with the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.
- Any dog while being used in emergency rescue work.
- Any dog while being used on official duties by a member of Her Majesty's Armed Forces, HM Customs and Excise or the police.
- Any dog while being used for driving or tending cattle or sheep.
- Any dog while being used for the capture or destruction of vermin.
- Any dog while being used for sporting purposes.
- Any pack of hounds.

Compulsory microchipping of dogs It is now a legal requirement to have your dog microchipped in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. All dogs must be microchipped by the time they are eight weeks of age and registered with a database compliant with the regulations, such a Petlog. All breeders will need to microchip their puppies and register themselves as the first keeper of the puppy, before they are transferred to a new keeper. The new keeper will also be responsible for updating the microchip with their details.

'Failure to comply with the regulations could result in a fine of up to £500 in England, Wales and Scotland.

Nuisance and Dangerous Dogs

Community Protection Notices and Byelaws on noisy animals

If your dog's barking causes a serious nuisance to neighbours, the local authority can serve a noise abatement notice, or Community Protection Notice, which if unheeded can result in you paying fines and legal expenses. Animals Act 1971 You could be liable for damage caused by your dog under this Act or under some degree of negligence. It is highly advisable to have third party liability insurance to cover this, something that is included in most pet and some household insurance policies. Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (section 3). It is a criminal offence (for the owner and/or the person in charge of the dog) to allow a dog to be 'dangerously out of control'. A 'dangerously out of control' dog can be defined as a dog that has injured someone or a dog that a person has grounds for reasonable apprehension that it may do so. Something as simple as your dog chasing, barking at or jumping up at a person or child could lead to a complaint, so ensure that your dog is under control at all times. If your dog injures a person, it may be seized by the police and your penalty may include a prison sentence and/or a ban on keeping dogs. There is also an automatic presumption that your dog will be destroyed (unless you can persuade the court that it is not a danger to the public, in which case it may be subject to a control order). You may also have to pay a fine, compensation and costs. Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Act 1997 The 1991 Act was amended by the Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Act 1997. The 1997 Act removed the mandatory destruction order provisions on banned breeds and reopened the Index of Exempted Dogs for dogs which the courts consider would not pose a risk to the public. The courts were given discretion on sentencing, with only courts able to direct that a dog be placed on the list of exempted dogs

Dogs of the following type are banned under the Dangerous Dog Act: • The Pit Bull Terrier • Fila Brasileiro • Dogo Argentino • Japanese Tosa

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

The Government recently introduced legislative changes to the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 and introduced the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act to:

- Extend section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in order that it covers incidents that take place on private property (as well as in public places)
- Remove the mandatory requirement for police to seize and kennel prohibited dogs which they do not consider to be of risk to the public
- Introduce Control Orders to prevent incidences of dog aggression. Similar legislation exists in other jurisdictions in the UK

The Road Traffic Act 1988 Dogs travelling in vehicles should not be a nuisance or in any way distract the driver during a journey. If a dog is injured in a car accident, the driver must stop and give their details to the person in charge of the dog. If there is no person in charge of the dog, the incident must be reported to the police within 24 hours.

The Kennel Club's information guide – do you know dog law? on their website summarises the various Acts of legislation that cover dog law. <http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk>

Abandoned vehicle Does it look vandalised and/or fire damaged? Does it look unused and in poor condition? Has it been parked for some time? Are the wheels or petrol cap missing? Are there broken windows or flat tyres? Is it abandoned in an unusual location? Is it full of rubbish/hazardous material/combustibles? Have you seen anybody use it or act suspiciously around it? Call: Elvis (End of Life Vehicle Impound Scheme) on 08456 121999 or elvis.recovery@northants.police.uk and give details of the registration number, type and condition of the abandoned vehicle and its location. Elvis will do the rest.

Crime Stoppers: 0800 555111 - to report information about a crime anonymously - you do not need to leave your name/address or telephone number. All the police need is the information you are reporting. Information leading to a conviction offers an award of up to £1000.

Dob the Damager To help stamp out anti-social behaviour and stop criminal damage call the confidential hotline **01832 742101**

Drivewatch Hotline – suspect someone of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs call the 24 hour telephone service, on **0800 174675**

Drug Crime - If you suspect a drug offence then report it on-line <http://www.northants.police.uk>
If you witness drug dealing call 999. If you are concerned about particular premises being used for growing drugs or drug users call 101 and ask for the Drug Unit. Just say you are a concerned member of the public.

Dog Watch Members - Are you a member of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme?

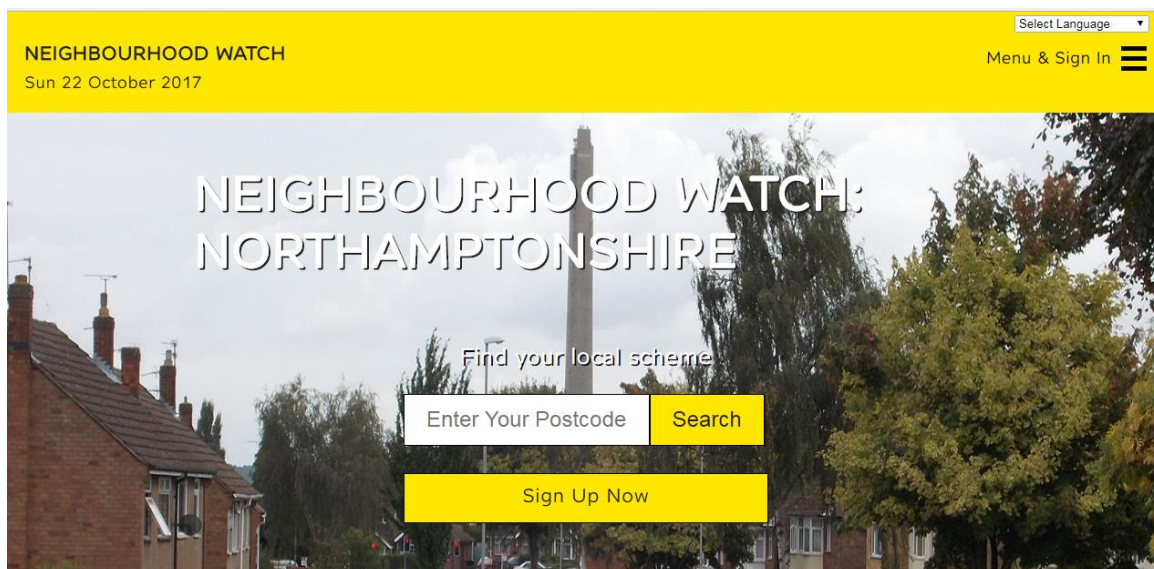
Membership to a Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Scheme on-line: Across the county we are encouraging new NHW schemes, as well as existing NHW schemes, to take advantage of the county website: **www.northantsnhw.co.uk**

The benefits include a simple process for members to register to join an existing NHW scheme, and once approved by the scheme's co-ordinator the member will receive the Police, Fire & Rescue, NHW and other authority Neighbourhood Alert messages, immediately they are issued. If there is not a scheme in your area why not consider being a NHW Co-ordinator. Contact Mary or Christine noted on page 2 for more information.

The benefits registering online include the ability for a member to select which type of messages he/she wants to receive and from which Information Providers; control who sees the data, and to be able to independently update their contact information (i.e. email address, phone numbers, etc.). The database is secure, accredited with *Cyber Essentials Plus* and the Neighbourhood Alert network is hosted within an ISO270001 accredited environment giving users the peace of mind that all data is secure.

A lot of work has gone into ensuring the process is as simple and intuitive as possible. It starts with a person simply adding their postcode and finding their closest NHW scheme and then clicking to join. (Any person under 18 years old must seek parents or guardian permission before applying.)

In due course the co-ordinator of the scheme will receive an email notification that a person has applied to join, and the co-ordinator will then access his/her web account to approve/decline.



Also co-ordinators can post information on the website that will give members, if urgent, fair warning or give useful information or advice pertaining to recent crime or general security.

Use of message information: Information sent may be sensitive and best judgement must be applied to retain or distribute the information according to the interests of public safety and crime prevention. You can share the content of community messages with other members of the public unless they state otherwise.

Information in messages can be used in local newsletters and publications providing it is copied accurately and not used in a misleading or misrepresenting context.

Messages are to keep members of the public up-to-date but discretion is needed to avoid unduly raising the fear of crime.

System Security: Passwords must be kept safe and not passed or loaned to anyone. Passwords should be a mixture of at least 8 characters and numbers. Avoid family or pet names or a home postcode as a password. It is recommended that passwords are changed on a regular basis (at least every six months) Any inappropriate use of the system by any member will result in their removal from the system.

Communication with Information Providers: Members may reply directly to a Neighbourhood Alert. Contact details are also provided on each message. Any communication with Information Providers should not contain any racist, homophobic or otherwise discriminatory comments. Any communication with Information Providers should not include any comments that may be considered offensive or inappropriate.

Other information can be seen on the website regarding Data Protection/Disclaimer or Unsubscribing.

Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Alert – if you are not a member of a NHW scheme and do not wish to start up a scheme for your street, you can still obtain alerts by registering on <https://www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk>

Reporting Crime: If you call the police about an incident, say you are a NHW and/or Dog Watch Member. Do not use 999 unless it is an emergency. Call 101 for non-emergency and be as precise as you can about the detail or Do it Online/Northamptonshire Police www.northants.police.uk/contact/online If you were not the witness but reporting something second hand, then try and get the witness to report as the police would rather speak to the eye witness unless there is a reason this cannot be done. e.g. the witness is the victim, the witness cannot speak or is incoherent in some way or is a vulnerable person, either too young, too elderly or is confused.

Suspicious Person: Take note of as much detail as possible. Day/Date/Time/Place Is the person white, Asian, what age, how tall, fat/slim etc. what was he/she wearing. What colour hair or bald. Any distinguishing features e.g. scars, did the person limp, broken tooth, missing ear, tattoo, had crutches, handbag, carrier bag etc. wearing a hat, what kind? Did the person have an accent, spoke well or uneducated? Was there a vehicle involved? What make, colour, registration. What was the condition of the vehicle? Was there advertising on it? What made you suspicious? e.g. Checking car doors, gazing suspiciously at a locked jewellers etc. Taking photographs are always a help in identifying a person but this should never be done if you are put at risk. Always be alert and take care.

Terrorism – If you suspect this, call the confidential anti-terrorism hotline 0800 789321 or to report on line or seek further information on what to look out for go to: www.northants.police.uk/information/counter-terrorism - In an emergency always call 999.