

# Dog related issues Jan 2011- Feb 2012

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# Contents

<b>Section</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>1.1 Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1.2 Dog related anti-social behaviour</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1.3 Dog fouling</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1.4 Stray dogs</b>	<b>3</b>

## **1.1 Introduction**

Housing Hartlepool introduced a pet policy in January 2011 which stipulates that all dogs must be micro chipped. To enable Housing Hartlepool to enforce and carry out this activity the Dogs Trust offered their assistance. This assistance was in the form of:

- Training for members of Housing Hartlepool staff to carry out the chipping.
- Provision of the micro-chips free of charge.
- Attendance at quarterly chipping / promotion events.

This was in addition to their continued support developing our service policies and procedures and attending meeting when requested.

## **1.2 Dog related anti-social behaviour**

During the year 2010 we received 76 dog related complaints, this has dropped to 26 during 2011. We believe this is due to the introduction of compulsory registering of pets within our homes and we could enforce this as the pets could be identified via their micro-chips. This has resulted in better living conditions for the tenants and has allowed us to monitor any issues of cruelty arising towards the dogs.

## **1.3 Dog fouling**

During the year 2010 the local environmental enforcement Officers handed out 76 fixed penalty notices. During the year 2011 the notices handed out have reduced to 47. This has been accredited to the number of dogs that are now micro-chipped and can be identified back to their owners, who could face action against their tenancy for this.

## **1.4 Stray dogs**

The number of stray dogs collected by Hartlepool Borough Council and Returned to their owners whom are Housing Hartlepool tenants has risen from 23% to 41.2%. This is accredited to the number of dogs being micro-chipped bot during our normal office hours and at special chipping events.