

INTRODUCTION

Onchan District Commissioners continue to be concerned at the amount of dog fouling in Onchan. Such fouling is offensive and in certain cases may cause serious illness, particularly in children.

The majority of dog owners behave responsibly and ensure that their pets do not cause annoyance or nuisance to other members of the community. Some dog owners, however, are not so responsible and allow their pets to foul on pavements and in other public places. In some cases, they allow their dogs to roam free without any form of control.

In 1993 the Onchan Dog Control Byelaws were introduced and imposed controls over some parts of the district, by designating specific areas where special control of dogs was required. These Byelaws were updated in 1995 and in 2007 adding additional areas within which controls must be exercised.

Copies of the byelaws and maps showing the areas to which they apply are available for inspection at the Commissioners' Office and the Onchan Library.

THE BYELAWS

Fouling of Footways

It is an offence for the keeper of a dog to allow that dog to foul any footway or pavement within the Local Government District of Onchan. The expression "keeper of the dog"

excludes a registered blind person in charge of a dog, a member of the Isle of Man Constabulary in charge of a dog in the course of his duty, or a member of the IOM Search and Rescue Dog Association engaged in operations or training.

No Dogs Allowed

Dogs are not permitted in the following areas:-

- a) the whole of Onchan Pleasure Park with the exception of the large grassed area on the upper side of the stadium;
- b) the childrens' play area at the School Road recreation ground
- c) the childrens' play area at Birch Hill (adjoining Birch Hill Stores);
- d) the childrens' play area at Ballachurry Park (adjoining Wybourn Grove);
- e) childrens' kick-about area at Ballachurry Park (adjoining Lhondhoo Close);
- f) childrens' play area at Lakeside Gardens; and
- g) the playing fields and play grounds at both Onchan Primary School and Ashley Hill Primary School.

Dogs Under Control

Dogs are permitted in the following areas provided they are on a lead if in the care of children under the age of 10 or under the "effective control" of an older person:-

- a) the grassed area above Onchan Stadium but not the remainder of Onchan Pleasure Park;
- b) the grassed areas of Springfield Court Elderly Persons Complex, Second Avenue;
- c) the large grassed area at Lakeside Gardens (excluding the childrens' play area);
- d) Port Jack Glen;
- e) The grassed areas at Birch Hill Avenue, Laurel Avenue, Birch Hill Crescent and Highfield Crescent in Birch Hill Park;
- f) School Road Recreational Fields (excluding the childrens' play area);
- g) The grassed areas at Heywood Park;
- h) The grassed areas of North Bank, Groudle.

Beaches

It is an offence for any dog (other than a dog under the control of a registered blind person or a police officer on duty) to be at large at the beaches at Groudle, Happy Valley or Port Jack. This applies during the months of May, June, July, August and September in any year. Faeces must be removed at all times

"Poop-Scoop" areas

Any faeces deposited by a dog in the following areas must be removed, or placed in the special bins provided:-

- a) large grassed area on the top side of Onchan Stadium;
- b) School Road recreational fields (from the central path upwards);
- c) The grassed areas of Springfield Court Elderly Persons Complex;
- d) The large grassed area of Lakeside Gardens;
- e) Port Jack Glen;
- f) The grassed areas at Birch Hill Avenue, Laurel Avenue, Birch Hill Crescent and Highfield Crescent in Birch Hill Park;
- g) The grassed areas of Heywood Park;
- h) The grassed areas of North Bank, Groudle; and
- i) Any carriageway including back lanes, footways, pavements and verges.

BYELAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

The Commissioners have appointed the services of a Community Officer whose responsibility it is to investigate any non-compliance with the byelaws and to take any necessary action thereunder with the agreement of the Commissioners.

PENALTIES

Subject to Section 24 (2) of the Act, any person guilty of an offence under the byelaws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1,000.

AREAS WHERE DOGS MAY BE EXERCISED

Dogs may be exercised in any areas where the byelaws do not apply except of course on public highways or on private property without

consent. The keeper of the dog should use common sense and be aware of the sensitivities of neighbours and other persons using the areas where the dog may be exercised.

Should you wish to report an incident or have a problem regarding a dog, then contact the Onchan District Commissioners on Tel: (01624) 624967 between 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m.. Alternatively, contact the Dog Warden on mobile Tel: (07624) 493120 or daytime answering machine Tel: (01624) 852512 or the Commissioners' Community Officer on mobile Tel: (07624) 478940 or a local police officer, as the police have the same powers as the dog wardens.

Groudle Glen, Molly Quirk's Glen and Bibaloe Glen may be used for the exercise of dogs as may the various public footpaths or rights of way. Responsible owners should, however, ensure that their dogs do not foul the footways or cause a nuisance to other persons.

GENERAL

Dog owners are reminded that every dog (except a blind person's guide dog, a police dog and dogs kept for agricultural purposes) requires a licence. If you were not the owner of a puppy at the time of its birth then a licence is required immediately otherwise it is required when six months old.

If a dog has been neutered/spayed or if the owner is over 60 years old then it is possible to obtain a licence at a much reduced rate. Licences and further particulars are available at the Commissioners' Office. Poop-scoops are on sale locally.

ONCHAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS



A GUIDE TO THE DOG BYELAWS

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