

## DID YOU KNOW ABOUT?

### ***P.A.W.S, the animal wardens Pet AWAREness Scheme, which provides:***

Visits to schools and other groups to help keep children and vulnerable adults safe around dogs.

An animal warden will visit your school or group and a presentation will be delivered which will be tailored to meet the needs, and at a level appropriate to the learning ability, of the audience which can vary in age from 3 years to adult.

### ***The main issues addressed are:***

- Safety at or near home
- Safety when confronted by an unknown dog
- The fear of dogs
- Understanding dog behaviour
- Responsible dog ownership

For younger audiences the presentation is interactive and fun and has included art and poster competitions, quizzes and projects.

Campaigns launched by individual schools have been encouraged and supported.

Local fetes and events have been attended with a mobile promotional unit and merchandise.

## HOW TO CONTACT THE ANIMAL WARDEN SERVICE

### ***By post:***

Animal and Pest Services  
East Riding of Yorkshire Council  
County Hall, Cross Street  
Beverley  
East Riding of Yorkshire  
HU17 9BA

### ***By telephone:***

01482 396301

### ***By email:***

[animal.wardens@eastriding.gov.uk](mailto:animal.wardens@eastriding.gov.uk)

### ***By visiting***

### ***East Riding of Yorkshire Council customer service centres:***

- |               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| • Anlaby      | • Hedon           |
| • Beverley    | • Hessle          |
| • Bridlington | • Hornsea         |
| • Brough      | • Howden          |
| • Cottingham  | • Market Weighton |
| • Driffield   | • Pocklington     |
| • Goole       | • Withernsea      |

East Riding of Yorkshire Council will, on request, provide this document in braille or large print.  
If English is not your first language and you would like a translation of this document, please telephone 01482 393939.

## ARE YOU FRIGHTENED OF DOGS?



## FRIGHTENED BY DOGS?

- Many people are frightened or wary of things and objects without knowing why
- Some people are frightened of things and objects for very good and sometimes terrifying reasons
- Some people are worried or embarrassed about showing or talking about their fears
- Many people are frightened of things they don't understand
- Many people would not know who to ask advice from to help with a specific fear
- Some people love animals but are still frightened of them
- Most people would take advice regarding their fears if it was offered

Every fear becomes less frightening if its subject is understood a little better and advice can be obtained to help to prevent any danger of the fear becoming a reality.

A fear of dogs can be difficult when so many people are dog owners and dogs can be found anywhere from the open fields to the school gates making it difficult to avoid contact with them.

Safety around dogs and responsible dog ownership are two of the subjects promoted by the animal wardens through their P.A.W.S scheme.

## WHY DOES A DOG DO THAT?

As a domestic pet some of the dogs natural functions are no longer in use, for example: it no longer has to find prey or scavenge for its meal, it now comes ready made from a bag, packet or a can.

But the natural instincts are still there so the dog will be excited by a chase or the sound of an animal or person in distress. This is why many dogs like toys that squeak or make noise. They may jump up at a person that is shouting or squealing.

A dog is a pack animal and expects and needs to have a pack leader or it will attempt to become the leader itself. The leader of the pack will be the one who sets and maintains the rules. In the case of a domestic animal this will be the person who has trained and gained respect from the dog and not necessarily the one who feeds it. The act of giving food is seen as weakness by the dog unless you have eaten first so that you have fed in pack order.

Children are often seen as pack equals so, as well as the dog respecting them, they need to be taught respect for the dog.

Never allow a child to tease or be spiteful to a dog as the dog may try to defend itself. This may lead the dog to fear and therefore defend itself against children, which is a very serious and dangerous dog for any child to meet.

## SAFETY

### *What to do if an unknown dog approaches you:*

- Stand still
- Try to stay calm
- Do not run
- Do not attempt to touch it
- Do not threaten it
- Do not attempt to read its tag
- Do not shout or make noise at it
- Fold your arms
- Do not look at the dog
- If possible, turn your back to it

By doing this the dog will realise that you are of no interest to it and walk away. If the dog jumps up or is persistent, use any barrier available to put something between you and the dog. This could be a handbag or school bag or you may be in a position to get behind a gate to a garden or enter a shop or other public building. Don't enter a house or car unless you know the occupant. Once you are confident that the dog has gone leave the area.

What then? Inform someone, it may be that they know the dog and who owns it and can ask or arrange for it to be collected.

If it is a dog that often strays, inform the animal warden service with as many details as possible about possible ownership, address, description and times that the dog is normally out.