

Mark Callis
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In the beginning

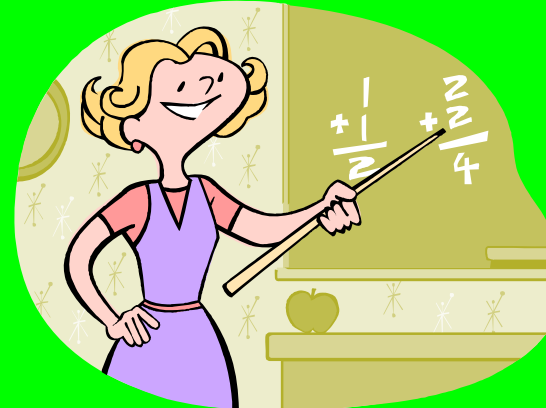
- 1987 Two Dog Control Officers
- 1990 Four Dog Control Officers
- 1994 Six Dog Control Officers

Shift system and 24 Hours
coverage

- 2010 Five Officers

Core Responsibilities

- Stray dogs
- Law Enforcement
- Education



Draft ASB BILL

- Clause 98 Dangerous Dogs

Current penalties stand at two years' imprisonment and/or an unlimited fine for aggravated offences but the changes announced will see the penalties increased to

Clause 98, amendment

(1) The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 is amended as follows.

(2) In section 3 (keeping dogs under proper control)—

(a) in subsection (1)—

(i) for “a public place” there is substituted “any place in England or Wales (whether or not a public place)”;

(ii) after “injures any person” there is inserted “or assistance dog”;

Clause 98 Penalties

14 years' imprisonment if a person dies as a result of a dog attack,

5 years' imprisonment if a person is injured by a dog attack, and

3 years' imprisonment if an assistance dog either dies or is injured by a dog attack

Clause 98

- In coming to a decision on new maximum penalties for dog attacks, we (DEFRA) have taken into account the responses to the consultation and the need for maximum penalties to be proportionate to the offence. We have also compared the current maximum penalty with the maximum penalties for other offences.

What does this mean for Local Authorities?

- Who enforces the law?
- Do we have Dog Wardens/Dog Control Officers
- What about incidents in housing stock or RSLs property
- How do we prevent dog attacks in our Housing stock or RSL property?

How can the Local Authority successfully implement changes?

- Practitioner Knowledge
- Partnership working
- Who takes the lead?
- Dedicated and knowledgeable staff
- Staff who are prepared/trained/able to address dog owners and dog issues

Further implications

- Public Spaces Protection Orders (ASB Bill).
- ‘Sweep it under the carpet’ approach
- Not ready for the ASB Bill!!

Parks and Open Spaces

- Who is the most frequent park user?
- Who is in the park when it is cold and you are ankles deep in snow?
- Who is in the Park on Christmas Day?
- Who walks in the park in the dark?



Managing the balance

- Is there a place for dogs in the community?



Managing the balance

- Microchipping and registration scheme



Managing the balance

- Neutering scheme



Managing the balance

- Multiple dog walking license



Managing the balance

- Educational roadshows



Managing the balance

- Further Educational activities



Questions/Discussion on the issues ?





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