

# FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PRESS RELEASE

7 August 2023

### Call for help to find breeders of abandoned dogs

Three sets of young dogs have been abandoned in Fenland in recent months, leading to fears puppies are being bred and dumped when owners fail to sell them.

Most of the puppies were in good condition, but the coats of four spaniel / poodle cross puppies dumped in Wisbech St Mary were badly matted and needed attention.

Fenland District Council's appointed stray dog service cared for all the dumped animals and was able to place them with rehoming organisations.

The council is urging anyone who finds themselves with animals they can't rehome to get in touch to access help available rather than leaving animals at risk of harm.

Cllr Susan Wallwork, portfolio holder for Environmental Health, said: "It's heartbreaking when animals are not properly looked after.

"There is support available so that an animal never needs to be callously dumped.

"We'd urge anyone who has information about who owned these puppies to let us know. It's vital that we identify any irresponsible breeders in our area to prevent further harm and neglect of animals.

"Anyone who finds themselves with a litter they can't home or animal they can't keep should contact one of our local animal charities or us for help."

In each of the recent cases the dogs have been picked up by the council's appointed dog warden after being reported as stray.

The council's stray dog service has covered the cost of vet bills, collection fees, food and welfare. Due to the animals having to be treated as lost, the dogs had to remain in kennels for seven days before being able to move onto rehoming partners. The total cost can reach up to £200 per dog.

Five mastiff cross puppies were taken to a vet in March on Monday, July 3.

Two whippets were found in Manea at the end of June.

The spaniel / poodle puppies were found separately between end of February and beginning of March, but were all the same age and believed to be the same litter.

Anyone who breeds and sells puppies for profit or breeds and sells as a business must have a licence. Failure to have a licence can result in prosecution.

Fenland's stray dog service always tries to reunite lost dogs with owners as quickly as possible, which can be achieved where micro-chips are present. By law, dogs must be micro-chipped by the time they are eight weeks old.

- If you know anything about the abandoned dogs email: [envhealth@fenland.gov.uk](mailto:envhealth@fenland.gov.uk) or call Laura Harwood on 01354 654321
- If you find a lost, stray or abandoned dog, see: <https://www.fenland.gov.uk/straydogs>
- For more information on licences to breed and sell dogs see: <https://www.fenland.gov.uk/animallicensing>
- Check a breeder has a licence via the [Licensing Public Register](#) on [www.fenland.gov.uk](http://www.fenland.gov.uk)
- If you have a dog you can't keep see:
  - [www.ravenswoodpetrescue.co.uk](http://www.ravenswoodpetrescue.co.uk)
  - [www.woodgreen.org.uk](http://www.woodgreen.org.uk)
  - [www.rspca.org.uk/local/block-fen-animal-centre](http://www.rspca.org.uk/local/block-fen-animal-centre)

## ENDS

### Photos

The mastiff cross puppies left with a vet in March on July 3.

One of the spaniel poodle cross puppies found in Manea that needed matted fur removed.

After - matted fur had to be removed from the spaniel poodle cross puppies dumped in Manea.

Matted fur had to be removed from the dumped spaniel poodle cross puppies.



### Notes to Editors

For media enquiries, please contact the Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226 or email: [communications@fenland.gov.uk](mailto:communications@fenland.gov.uk)