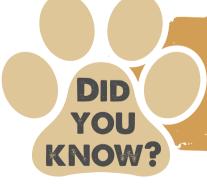
ARE YOUA RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER?

As a dog owner, there are a number of things you must be aware of and adhere to:

- If your dog bites somebody, whether it is a child, a postman or a visitor to your home, this is an aggravated offence and you may be prosecuted and sent to prison for up to five years.
- If your dog bites an assistance dog e.g. a guide dog, this is also an aggravated offence and you can be prosecuted and sent to prison for up to three years.
- Fines and compensation are unlimited for aggravated offences.
- If your dog is dangerously out of control you may be prosecuted, face up to six months in prison, a fine of up to £5,000 and be liable for compensation up to £5,000.
- From 6 April 2016 it is compulsory for all dogs in England and Wales to be microchipped.
- You must report all bites to the police, regardless of how serious they are, to avoid any future attacks.



We see an increase in dog bites during the summer months. We also see a lot of bites occurring in the home between the hours of 3-8pm.

If you're worried about the behaviour and health of your dog, contact your local vet for advice or alternatively visit **www.dogstrust.org.uk** or **www.bedogsmart.org.uk** who can also offer advice and support.



If you have concerns regarding the behaviour of a dog that isn't yours, contact police on **101** or **999** in an emergency. Alternatively, call Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111**.