



WELCOME

Welcome to the March edition of our Paws on Patrol Newsletter. Within the newsletter you will find useful information from partner agencies, ways in which you can keep yourselves and your dogs safe and information on any current issues.

DOG THEFT



According to a new study which was conducted in partnership with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, more than three-quarters of dog owners say they are more scared of walking their pet because of the heightened risk that it will be stolen. Concerns are growing that dogs have become a target for criminals due to increased prices.

The survey was conducted online and ran for three weeks from 19th February to 12 March 2021.

The survey was shared on the NPT Paws on Patrol Facebook page so we would like to thank those members who took the time to share their views.

*Thank!
You!*

South Wales Police (SWP) would like to reassure our local communities that cases of dog theft remain low in this area, however tackling it is a priority for SWP and Community Safety as we are very much aware of the emotional impact of a dog being stolen.

By raising awareness, we want to both prevent dog thefts and to increase the quality of community intelligence reported to SWP, so they can take action to catch offenders. Officers will take your concerns seriously and all information received will feed into vital community intelligence to disrupt any criminal activity.

If you have any information on dog thefts then please contact SWP through the following channels:



Go to: <https://bit.ly/SWPReportOnline>



Send us a private message on Facebook/Twitter



Via email: publicservicecentre@south-wales.police.uk



Phone: **101**



CrimeStoppers confidential number- **0800 555111**



In an emergency, always dial **999**.

Some helpful advice on keeping your dog safe can be found on the following websites:

The Blue Cross

<https://www.bluecross.org.uk/pet-advice/protect-your-dog-against-theft>

DogsTrust

<https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/news-events/issues-campaigns/dog-theft/>



PUPPY SCAMS

Criminals have taken advantage of the lockdown to commit fraud via the sale of pets.

UK wide in March and April 2020, Action Fraud reported that **669** people had lost a combined total of **£282,686** after putting deposits on pets they had seen advertised on line via social media and general and pet online selling platforms.

After the initial deposit, criminals will then ask for more money for vaccinations, insurance or delivery etc., but they won't have the pet to sell to you.



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council
Trading Standards & Animal Health

Trading Standards ask consumers to:

- ✓ Check the site or the person you are buying from for reviews on previous sales.
- ✓ If you can't visit, then ask to see the pet in a video call.
- ✓ If they refuse, it should raise your suspicions and you shouldn't go ahead with the purchase
- ✓ Don't pay with bank transfer, use means by which you have more protection like a credit card or Paypal



TS inbox – tsd@npt.gov.uk

Facebook : @NptEnvHealthTradingStandards

Twitter : @NPTTradingStds

Citizens Advice Consumer Service

0808 223 1144 (welsh)

0808 223 1133 (english)



OPERATION DAWNS GLAW

What is Operation Dawns Glaw ?

Operation Dawns Glaw is the name given to the All Wales, multi-agency campaign that has been set up to tackle the issue of, and the devastating impact of deliberate grassfires that typically occur around this time of year in many of our communities across Wales.

Do we have a grassfire problem in Neath Port Talbot?

In 2020 Fire crews from across the Neath Port Talbot area attended to over 264 grassfire incidents. As a conservative estimate about 300 hectares of grassland and forestry was destroyed by fire across the County last year – That's about 500 football pitches burnt.

These grassfires occur all over the County but there are several 'hotspot' areas where these fires occur often and can be large and quickly spread out of control such as

Seven sisters
Cymmer

Glynneath
Glyncorrwg



Who do we think is responsible ?

Information tells us that one of the main reasons for this sharp increase in the number of fires around the Springtime is because farmers, graziers and landowners burn off the dead grass in preparation for the new season's growth.



In Wales we have a permitted burn season that allows farmers and graziers to burn up until the 31st March each year. Very few contact the fire service to notify them of any planned burns which means we end up having to deploy fire crews to extinguish these fires.



There is also a link between the school Easter holidays and the sharp rise in grassfires as well as a change in the weather. When it becomes warmer and drier with more people going out into the countryside and open spaces to enjoy, having BBQ's and campfires that can get out of control or aren't disposed of properly.



How can our Paws on Patrol Members help ?

This year Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue service have set up a dedicated page on their site that tells you everything you need to know about their campaign and grassfires.

It contains plenty of resources and information that you can download and use. You can find the page by following this link -

<https://www.mawwfire.gov.uk/dawnsglaw>

We would really appreciate you taking a look at this web-page and talking to friends, family and neighbours and raising awareness of the dangers of grassfires.

REPORT IT

If you have any information on people responsible for setting grassfires in your communities please let us know.

You can contact us

via email: arson.reduction@mawwfire.gov.uk
or by calling 01792 705130.

Alternatively you can contact your local police via 101
To report anonymously please use Crimestoppers 0800 111 222

Regular updates can be found on

 @MAWWFire and Rescue

 @ArsonReductionTeam



Dog Fouling



A member of our Paws on Patrol Scheme has reported continuing issues of dog fouling and littering near Aberavon beach front. Over 40 used dog waste bags have been dumped on the grass area between The Princess Margaret Way and Tir Morfa Road. The issue has been reported to NPT Waste Crime who are dealing with the issue.

The minority of irresponsible dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs give all dog owners a bad name. Please help keep your community clean for people and their furry friends to enjoy!



If you would like to report dog fouling within the Neath Port Talbot Area you can report online via www.npt.gov.uk/reportit alternatively you can call **01639 686868**



All those who are registered members to our scheme have been offered a **FREE** crime prevention pack.

The team are hoping to start sending the packs out during the beginning of April.



If you wish to receive this newsletter in Welsh or if you have any questions please contact us via community.safety@npt.gov.uk