Out of Hours Service
In the past the Police had some responsibilities for stray dogs and would take in animals. This is no longer the case.

If you find a stray dog outside normal office hours you can take it to Swanpit Kennels [see below]. Or keep the dog safe until it can be collected the next working day.

Contacts

ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH SERVICE
Stafford Borough Council,
Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford ST16 3AQ
CALL  01785 619 000
EMAIL  ehadmin@staffordbc.gov.uk
VISIT  www.staffordbc.gov.uk

Civic Centre Opening Hours
8.30am - 5.00pm  Monday to Thursday
8.30am - 4.30pm  Friday.

Out of Hours Service
CALL  01785 619 170
5.00pm - 8.00pm  Monday to Friday
8.00am - 12noon  Saturday and Sunday

POLICE
Staffordshire Police (Dangerous and Banned Dogs)
CALL  0300 123 44 55
Staffordshire Police (Non-emergency)
CALL  101

SWANPIT KENNELS
Swanpit Boarding Kennels and Cattery,
Swanpit Farm, Gnosall, Staffordshire ST20 0EE
CALL  01785 822 221

Environmental and Health
www.staffordbc.gov.uk

Stray and Dangerous Dogs
Advice on Responsible Dog Ownership

If you need this information in large print, Braille, other language or on audio cassette please contact:
EMAIL  info@staffordbc.gov.uk
TEL  01785 619 000
Who should I contact if I am concerned about a dangerous or banned dog?
The Police should be contacted concerning dangerous or banned dogs.
Staffordshire Police (Dangerous and Banned Dogs) call 0300 123 44 55 or call 101 (Non-emergency)

Stray and unaccompanied dogs
Under the Environment Protection Act 1990, Stafford Borough Council has a duty to deal with stray dogs. The Council has a contract with Noah’s Ark Environmental Services Ltd to respond to calls about stray dogs within normal office hours

What is a ‘stray’ dog?
The term ‘stray’ refers to any dog which is not accompanied by an owner or other person with responsibility for that dog. This applies regardless of whether the dog carries identification or wears a collar.

What should I do if I see a stray dog?
If you cannot trace the owner directly contact the Environment and Health Service [details overleaf].

We will need a brief description of the dog and where it can be collected from. Dogs can only be collected from an identifiable location so it is helpful if you can secure the dog in a garden or tether it to a post.

The animal welfare officer will attend at the earliest opportunity.

What will happen to the dog?
The Animal Welfare Officer will transfer the dog to licensed holding kennels. Wherever possible the owner will be contacted and told where the dog is being kept and the cost of reclaiming it. There is a statutory fee to help over the cost of the service, and to act as a deterrent to irresponsible owners.

What happens to dogs that are not claimed?
The Council has a duty to retain a dog for seven clear days from the date of seizure. In the case where a dog has not been claimed after seven days, the Council passes the dogs to a Welfare organisation, which will endeavour to re-home the dog.

Stafford Borough Council does not have a policy of destroying dogs, except in extreme cases where the dog is suffering or is dangerous. A vet will be consulted in these cases

A register of seized dogs is kept at the Civic Centre and is available for public inspection at any reasonable time.

If I find a dog, can I keep it?
Under the Environmental Protection Act, there is a provision for stray dogs to be kept by finders. The finder has a legal responsibility to contact the Council, who will require the finder to sign a document stating that he will keep the dog for at least one month. This document also requires the finder to release the dog to any person claiming, and proving to be the owner of the dog.

What should I do if I lose my dog?
Notify the Environmental and Health Service immediately. Your dog may have already been collected and kennelled. If your pet is wearing indentification we will try to contact you. Remember that the Animal Welfare Officer is not a miracle worker and the person with the best chance of finding a missing dog is the owner. If you live near the boundary of a district, also notify the authority in the neighbouring district.

From 2016 all dogs will be required to be microchipped.

Remember that all dogs are required by the law to wear a collar with IDENTIFICATION stating the NAME and ADDRESS of the OWNER.