



## City of Westminster

Westminster City Hall  
64 Victoria Street  
London SW1E 6QP

**COUNCILLOR ADAM HUG**  
**Leader of the Council**

[cleader@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:cleader@westminster.gov.uk)

28<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Len Duval OBE AM

Chair of the London Assembly

Dear Chair,

Thank you for your recent correspondence in relation to the plenary motions on Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) and Stray dogs at the London Assembly

Westminster City Council (WCC) liaises regularly with shelters and colleagues across London, and we concur with your comments in relation to increased stray dog reports and the links with the cost-of-living. There was a sharp rise in our stray dog collections last year, and this trend is on a similar pathway this year. During this time, we've seen many examples of dogs purchased during the pandemic that have been gifted or abandoned because the owner can no longer care for it. It is therefore encouraging that these issues are being discussed.

We agree in the proportionality of control orders and look carefully at how these are consulted and implemented. In 2024 we consulted and introduced PSPOs to 5 new spaces to help mitigate and steer behaviour. Whilst we have increased our orders to reflect the challenging landscape, these constitute relatively small locations across Westminster that has a lot of accessible open space where dogs are allowed off lead, so I suspect this is where the difference in regulations exists. Also, our consultation process on new dog orders does include the Kennel Club and asks residents / dog owners if these orders will have a negative impact on them. On responsible dog ownership more broadly, WCC has 2 officers that can microchip dogs and cats and has offered a free service to residents since 2013 (we've chipped some 250 dogs) through dedicated events and projects to raise awareness of responsible ownership and identification. These events are either run with or supported by third sector organisations, and we often find that owners from other Council areas will attend our events just to get their pets chipped for free which may support your point about accessible resources and prevention of owners to comply with the legislation.



City of Westminster

We strongly welcome closer strategic partnership working with the Metropolitan Police in promoting responsible dog ownership. In addition to our parks, we also have six very large Royal Parks in Westminster that are very popular for resident dog walkers where we are seeing more issues of uncontrolled dogs impacting wildlife and users reported to the Council but we would also include the equal risk in the lack of kennelling provision which is a challenge the police share. Many Councils are reliant upon the private sector to deliver their statutory responsibilities of collecting stray dogs, and to support assessing and rehoming which can often take several months.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam Hug". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "g".

Councillor Adam Hug  
Leader of Westminster Council