

## Dog Warden Report

During my time as Dog Warden I've encountered a minority of dog owners that when challenged regarding not cleaning up after their pet or as to whether they are carrying the necessary dog bag, have become quite verbally aggressive, but during the period of this pandemic the abuse that I've received has been unprecedented. There are more dogs being regularly walked due to owners not working or people taking on a pet for company, subsequently there are more people not picking up after them.

Two weeks ago I just asked a lady and gentleman if they could please put their large dog back on the lead as it was running loose around the Kingfisher road/Otter Lane area and had scared another dog walker with a small elderly dog. Their language and threats were very intimidating to the point that afterwards the other dog owner said she'd never use that route in the future in case she met them again as she thought the gentleman was going to hit me with the lead. She said she couldn't believe how such a simple request could escalate in someone becoming so nasty.

In future I'll not be asking for proof of dog bags but offer them if required and just patrol as a visible deterrent.

Once the clocks change the amount of dog owners not picking up after their dogs always increases and currently there are the usual 'hotspots' Linkfield Road, Rothley Road, Churchill Road and both the Loughborough road and Memorial playing fields. It's not unusual to collect thirty or more droppings on a morning patrol when dogs have been walked in the dark either that morning or the night before but I don't think it's safe to patrol in the dark.

I'm going to resume spraying coloured paint where I collect droppings from the pavements, this seemed to have a positive outcome earlier this year so fingers crossed.

I have spoken with our local PCSO who has given me reassurance he will back me up with official warnings should a situation get out of hand in future.

Tina Cooper  
Dog Warden.