

DOG FOULING and you



Is dog fouling an offence?

YES!

It is an offence not to clean up after your dog on footpaths, bridlepaths, parks, grass verges and amenity areas in the district.

What land is covered?

Generally, land in the open air to which the public has access:

- by right
- with the owner's permission
- by payment
- verges on roads with a speed limit of 40mph or less
- public rights of way, i.e. footpaths and bridlepaths

As a responsible dog owner you should pick up after your dog has fouled at all times.

The UK's population of seven million dogs produces about 1,000 tonnes of faeces every day!

Why should I clean up?

Dog mess can contain a number of things which can make people ill; the best known is a roundworm called toxocara canis. If the eggs of this worm are swallowed it can result in a range of problems from aches and pains to breathing difficulties and, in the worst case, blindness.

The risk to health can be reduced by:

- Worming your dog regularly
- Always clearing up after your dog
- Good hygiene practice

How can I dispose of my dog's waste?

There are over 250 dog waste bins and 1,000 litter bins that can be used around the district.

You can also use your dustbin at home.

Do not use the nearest tree, hedge or spare land to dispose of your dog poo bag.

Will I ever be caught and fined?

YES!

Dog Control Officers carry out daily enforcement patrols, targeting dog fouling hotspot areas. The public are becoming less willing to accept irresponsible dog owners. They are, more than ever, willing to tell the council who is not picking up the mess and where, making it much easier for us to catch offenders.

When caught you will either get an 'on the spot' fine of £50 or a summons to appear in court. Prosecution could mean a £1,000 fine!

It is no defence to say:

- "I was looking the other way and didn't see it."
- "I didn't have a poop-scoop."
- "The dog got out of the house so how can I be expected to know what it has done."
- "It isn't my dog, I'm walking it for a friend."
- "There's no bin."

REMEMBER!

It is the responsibility of the person in charge of a dog to make sure a fouling offence does not occur.

Allowing a dog to mess in a public area is an antisocial act that produces an unpleasant environment and can pose health risks for others, especially children.

If a dog waste bin is full or if there is a problem, please call the Customer Services Team on 01423 500600 or email customerservices@harrogate.gov.uk quoting the bin number.

Help us clean up your local area

If you see a dog fouling and the owner does not clean up after it, we may be able to prosecute if you can help us to collect as much of the following information as possible:

- **date**
- **time**
- **location**
- **description of owner and dog**
- **dog owner's name or address if known**

If you have any queries or can help us to identify any offenders, please contact the:

Dog Warden Service
01423 500600

Dog Warden Service
Safer Communities
Harrogate Borough Council
PO box 787
Harrogate
HG1 9RW

environmentalprotection@harrogate.gov.uk

www.harrogate.gov.uk

