

Dog Fouling FAQs

Dog fouling is a problem where I live or work, what can I do to stop it?

There are some straightforward steps that can be taken to reduce dog fouling.

The first is to put up your own dog fouling sign if the problem is in the vicinity of your own property, there are many different designs available and the wording is, providing it is not too offensive, entirely up to you.

Alternatively you can download and print a copy of the signs that we use.

Speak to your neighbours. If you are having a problem with dog fouling then the chances are that they are as well. The more people watching out for it the more chance you have of catching the person responsible for it in the act.

If you or anyone else is aware of whom the individual is then please contact the council and provide as much information as possible. The information provided will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

What evidence does the council need?

There is both formal and informal action that we can take. For us to take formal action, someone has to witness a dog foul and the person in charge of the dog at the time failing to clear it up. That person will need to give a witness statement and may be required to go to court on behalf of the Council to provide evidence.

If the person reported it wishes to remain anonymous then we will take informal action such as sending a general warning letter or flyers to nearby houses.

What are the penalties for dog fouling?

People who do not clean up after their dog can be given a fixed penalty notice. If they refuse to pay the fine, they can be prosecuted and may face a court appearance with a maximum penalty of £1,000. Registered blind dog owners are exempt from penalties.

Being unaware of the fouling, or not having the means to clear it up is not an excuse.

Can I request more 'no dog fouling' signs from the council?

In public areas where there is a specific problem and there is a current lack of signage, we will look into the issue and decide whether or not more signage will be helpful or if a different approach is needed. Alternatively you can download and print a copy of the signs that we use.

What are the health risks associated with dog fouling?

Toxocaracanis is a roundworm found in dogs. Roundworm eggs are found in dog faeces, which can easily be picked up by young children. This can result in stomach upsets, sore throats, asthma and in rare cases blindness. The eggs can remain active in the soil for many years, long after the dog mess has weathered away.

The eggs do not mature until 2-3 weeks after they have been deposited in dog faeces, so prompt clearance reduces the risk of the illness being passed to humans.

How do I clear up after my dog at home?

There are three disposal methods we would recommend for dog waste from the home:

- Most pet stores sell 'Dog loos'. These are set into the ground and are supplied with a bioactivator to help break down dog faeces;
- The dog waste can be buried in your garden;
- The dog waste, if bagged can be placed in your black wheelie bin (household rubbish).