



Dog Poop Guide

Why should I clean up after my dog?

It is an offence not to (Registered blind people are exempt)

- It is an offence under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 not to clear up immediately after your dog has fouled, only those exempt by legislation from doing so are excused.
- It is also illegal to cause litter, this applies to the habit of leaving FULL poo-bags on the sides of paths, on verges and hanging in trees. This is also a health risk.

It is anti-social

- Dog fouling in public areas is anti-social.
- A health hazard, it can and does cause blindness, a source of intestinal worms.
- Attracts flies, another source of disease carrying.
- It is unpleasant to look at, unpleasant to step in, and worse it is a danger in play areas for children.
- Smells awful.
- Local Councils including Parish Councils receive many, many complaints about dog fouling every year.

Dogs poo is dangerous

- Dog waste is associated with a number of diseases including toxocarasis. Toxocara is a roundworm commonly found in dogs, and almost all puppies. Eggs from the roundworm are found in dog waste, where they can pose a health risk if eaten, particularly to small children in play areas. The parasite can cause stomach upsets, sore throats, asthma and in some cases blindness. The eggs remain active in the soil for years, long after any dog waste has weathered away, so the risk isn't always obvious. Pick up dog poo immediately to prevent parasites penetrating soil and affecting the health of others.

The penalty

- If you are witnessed failing to clear up your dogs waste, you will be offered a Fixed Penalty Notice or even a prosecution notice.
- Also be aware that some local authorities have introduced laws that allow wardens/police to request you show them a means of picking up waste (poo bag etc.) and lack of this will attract a Fixed Penalty Notice or prosecution notice.
- You have the option to accept this Notice and pay the fixed penalty (currently just less than £100) within 14 days, or alternatively face prosecution in the Magistrates' Court. The maximum penalty upon conviction is currently £1,000.



**FAILURE
TO PICK UP POOP
Can result in a
prosecution,
a criminal record
& £1000 penalty**



GREAT PAXTON PARISH NOTICE

Where must I clean up after my dog?

- It is an offence not to clear up immediately after your dog on all public land and also local roads not adopted by the council as these have public access.
- Areas included by legislation are all highways with a speed limit of 40 or less, so this includes virtually every City, Town, village, hamlet in the UK;
 - Highways, footways, open public spaces
 - School property, public areas, public fields and sport fields.
 - Public areas/fields, public parks and verges.
 - Children's play areas.
 - Housing public amenity greens.
 - Canal towpaths, public footpaths, river footpaths, bridleways, bike and bye ways.
 - All adjoining verges and fields to any of the above.
 - Please be sensitive to the local farmers. They are very accommodating, allowing access to farm tracks, for dogs under control. Whilst it is not an offence to allow dogs to foul on farm land it is totally unreasonable not to pick it up after the event, there is no excuse not to. Failure to do so means it is unsightly, unhealthy, and someone will step in it (not very nice) and the farmer will eventually stop the access. It is important for many reasons to treat this very valued, goodwill, access with respect, or lose it!



**PICK UP
EVERYWHERE**



**RESPECT IT OR
LOSE IT**

How do I clean up after my dog?

- Firstly, be prepared - always carry plastic poop bags, enough for your outing ensuring you always have spare ones, or a poop-scoop gadget. A variety of disposable dog fouling bags and scoops are available from pet shops and other retail outlets - although a carrier bag will suffice. There is no excuse.
 - Follow these simple guidelines;
 - Place hand in plastic bag.
 - Pick up dog waste using plastic bag.
 - Turn the bag inside out so dog waste is inside and tie the bag up tightly.
 - Ensure the dog waste is removed in its entirety and that bags are always tied-up before disposal.
 - where special bins are provided for dog waste these should be used, by placing the tied-up bag inside the bin.



BAG IT - BIN IT



What if there are no dog bins in the area?

- The Act applies in all areas where dog waste bins are provided or not, so you must always pick it up.
- Failing a designated Dog Poo Bin being present, double bag your dogs mess and tie the bags tightly and deposit in the nearest refuse bin OR take it home and then dispose of in the accepted refuse collection bin. It is always your responsibility to dispose of safely.



GREAT PAXTON PARISH NOTICE

What do I do if the dog waste bin is full?

- Should a dog bin be full place the bag (doubled up for health and safety reasons) in a normal waste bin.
- Alternatively, take the waste home with you and put it in your general household waste bin as directed by your local refuse notices.
- Report the bin location to your to the local authorities (Environment Health Service) that the bin is full and arrangements will be made to empty it. There are generally 'Local authority/Council hot lines' set up for this event and responsible dog owners should make themselves aware of the number to call.

Reporting offences

- The rules covered by legislation will be enforced by the District Council.
- The public may identify offenders and if you witness an offence please support any reports with as much of the following information as you are able, noting that photographs/movies of events make excellent records and provide clear identification.
 - The exact location.
 - Type of dog.
 - Description of person in charge of dog.
 - Vehicle registration and details, if known.
 - Name and address of person committing the offence, if known.



**Please make any reports to your local Parish Council or Council Dog Warden.
How and where to report are available from Council Websites.**

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