

## Remember

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

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, particularly children.



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

**Dog Warden Service**  
**01423 556633**

If the dog waste bin is full or if there is a problem, please call the Customer Service Team on 0845 300 6091 [customerservices@harrogate.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@harrogate.gov.uk) quoting the bin number.

## Help us to clean up your local environment

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

- DATE
- TIME
- LOCATION
- DESCRIPTION OF OWNER AND DOG
- DOG OWNER'S NAME  
and most important ...
- YOU SAW THE DOG FOUL!

Contact the  
**Dog Warden Service**  
Department of Community Services  
Springfield House  
Kings Road  
HARROGATE HG1 5NX  
**01423 556633**

# DOG Fouling AND YOU



## Q. Is dog fouling an offence?

Under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 it is an offence not to clean up after your dog on most footpaths, bridle paths, parks, grass verges and amenity areas in the district.



## Q. What land is covered?

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

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

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

## Q. Why should I clean up?

The UK has a dog population of approximately 7 million producing 1,000 tonnes of faeces daily.

Dog faeces can contain a number of things which can make people ill, the best known of which is an infection with a round worm known as toxocara canis. If the eggs of this worm are swallowed, this can result in a range of symptoms from aches and pains to bronchial conditions and in the worst case blindness.

However there is no risk of toxocara infection to dog owners who clear up after their pets immediately.

**The risk to human health can be reduced by:**

**Worming your dog regularly**



**Always clearing up after your dog**



**Good hygiene practice**



## Q. How can I dispose of my dog's mess?

There are over 200 dog waste bins around the district.

You can also use ordinary litter bins or your dustbin at home, provided the faeces is properly sealed in a tied plastic bag.

## Q. Will I ever be caught?

**YES!!**

Fellow users of footpaths, parks, open spaces and the countryside are becoming less willing to tolerate nuisance caused by irresponsible dog owners. They are more willing to tell the Council whose dog is leaving the mess and where it is happening, making it much easier for us to catch offenders.

### IT IS NOT A 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's not my dog, I'm walking it for a friend."

## Q. How much could I be fined?

Offenders who are caught will either have to pay an "on the spot" fine of £50 or appear in a magistrates court and face a fine of up to £1,000.