



Dog fouling

It is an offence for a dog owner not to clear up after their dog has fouled on any open public land. Our Dog Wardens patrol the District regularly and can issue an on the spot fine of £75 to any person who fails to clear up after their dog. In certain circumstances we may choose to prosecute the individual instead, and the Courts can impose a maximum fine of £1000.

The health risks

Dog faeces can contain bacteria that can make people sick, or the eggs of the roundworm **Toxocara canis**. If these are ingested they can make people very ill and the roundworm can cause blindness in children. Dogs should be wormed four times a year. Children should not play around runs/kennels, should always have their hands washed before eating and should be prevented from putting grass in their mouths. Always use separate dishes for your dog and wash them up separately and you should not share food with your dog. However, **there are no health risks to you from immediately clearing up after your dog** as the eggs of the Toxocara worm take over two weeks to hatch and become active.

Advice for the dog-walker

Encourage your dog to foul on your property before/after the walk. Always carry something to clear up after your dog. If your dog fouls in a public place then put a bag over your hand and pick it up with your protected hand. Turn the bag inside out around the faeces and tie a knot in the top of the bag. Deposit it in a dog waste bin (if you are not sure where these are, contact us or your Town/Parish Council) or take it home and put it in your dustbin.

How can the public help us to prevent dog fouling?

If you witness any offences taking place, please notify us as soon as possible. All complaints are treated in confidence. Even if you don't know the name or address of the offender, you can still provide us with information on when and where it happened and a description of the person and dog involved. If there are areas that are badly fouled, please let us know so that we can patrol them.

The Council's Client Services team may be able to cleanse public areas that are badly fouled and can be contacted on (01386) 565018.

Contact: Environmental Protection Section, Environmental Services,
Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, WR10 1PT

Telephone: 01386 565015 Fax: 01386 561826

Email: environmental.health@wychavon.gov.uk

Website: www.wychavon.gov.uk/es
