



NORTHAW AND CUFFLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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DOG FOULING - PUBLIC AREAS & FOOTPATHS



Dog mess is one of the most unacceptable and offensive type of litter on our streets and recreational areas. Dog fouling is not only deeply unpleasant, it is dangerous. Whilst rare, contact with dog excrement can cause toxocarasis - a serious infection that can lead to dizziness, nausea, asthma and even blindness and seizures.

There are estimated to be more than 8 million dogs producing more than 1,000 tonnes of mess every day in the UK. So even a small percentage of thoughtless owners leads to a significant problem.

While many dog owners are caring, responsible individuals, there are still some people who do not clean up after their pets. These irresponsible owners give the majority of good citizens a bad name.

Anyone who fails to clear up after their dog can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice. If the case goes to court this could set the owner or person in charge of the animal back up to £1,000.

The law even states that being unaware a dog has fouled or not having a suitable bag is not a reasonable excuse.

While some councils do provide dedicated dog-fouling bins, any public bin can take the waste. There is no excuse to leave it.

WHBC makes it clear that:

It is every dog owner's responsibility to clean up after their dog. If left in public areas it is a potential health risk. It is no defence to claim ignorance of the dog's actions.

It is an offence for any person in charge of a dog to allow it to foul in a public place and not clean it up under The Dog (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 and The Clean Neighbourhood Environment Act 2005.

Failure to remove dog faeces (Dog fouling) is subject to a penalty of up to £1000 if taken to court.

If you have information about someone who is failing to clean up after their pet you can report it to the police Tel: 101 or the WHBC dog warden Email: contact-whc@welhat.gov.uk Tel: 01707 357000