

It is estimated that the dog population of the UK is 8.5 million¹ producing vast amounts of excrement. The majority of owners behave responsibly and pick up after their dogs. However dog mess left by a minority of irresponsible owners is often the cause of complaints to Daventry District Council.

It is illegal to leave your dog's faeces lying around in a public area. If a dog is in your care for any length of time, it is your responsibility to clean up its mess.

This leaflet provides a pocket guide to the rules and regulations in force across Daventry District to control dog fouling.

The law

The Daventry District Council Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), makes it an offence if you do not remove any poo deposited by your dog. This removal must be done without delay.

The Order, made under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, applies to all public, open land in the District whether or not warning signs are displayed. The PSPO also requires dog walkers to carry the means to pick up dog poo whilst on a walk.²

Any breach of the Order could result in a £100 fixed penalty notice or being taken to court and receiving a fine on conviction of up to £1000.

Health risks posed by dog fouling

Apart from the legal consequences of dog fouling, there are health implications too. Dog mess may contain a number of things that can make people ill. One of these is the roundworm *Toxocara canis*, whose eggs can be found in the faeces of dogs that haven't been wormed. If the eggs are swallowed, infection can cause a wide range of symptoms from aches and pains to bronchial conditions. In very rare cases eyesight can be damaged. Young children are most at risk as they are more likely to come into contact with infected ground and then put their fingers in their mouth. The eggs can lie dormant in the soil for up to three years.

The risk to human health can be reduced by:

- Worming your dog regularly
- Always clearing up after your dog
- Good hygiene practice.

² The PSPO does not apply to blind or partially-sighted people with guide dogs and those with other trained assistance dogs for specific disabilities.

Enforcing the law

Daventry District Council's enforcement officers routinely patrol open spaces around the district, including hotspots where dog fouling problems have been reported, to try to catch the offenders or act as a deterrent.

Dog walkers have also been fined as a result of information provided by members of the public who have observed fouling offences.



Report dog fouling

If you would like to report a fouling problem it would be helpful if you could provide the following details:

- The time, date and location of incident
- The frequency of the offence, if it happens regularly
- A description/breed of the dog
- Any other descriptions to help identify the offender, including their name and address if known.

You can report it in one of the following ways:

- On our website at www.daventrydc.gov.uk/online
- Email us at customercare@daventrydc.gov.uk
- Call us 01327 871100

We may also be able to put up some signs warning owners not to foul. If fouling occurs at regular times, it may be possible for a dog warden to witness the fouling and take action accordingly.

¹ Latest available estimated figures from the Pet Food Manufacturers' Association



Cleaning up after your dog

If your dog goes 'to the loo' when you are out, it is important that you clean up after it. Remember:

- if you walk your dog, always carry the means to clear up after your pet - a simple plastic bag will do the trick or buy poop scoops from a local pet shop
- dispose of the bag correctly in either a dog waste or litter bin, or take it home and place it, suitably wrapped, in your own waste bin
- do not dump the bag in a hedge or elsewhere as this is littering which also carries a penalty
- if you have a garden, encourage the dog to 'go' there - you can then bury the mess or alternatively clean it up and bin it
- never let your dog out alone to 'go to the loo'
- always wash your hands as soon as possible when you get home.

Always clean up after your dog and worm your dog regularly. Vets normally advise worming dogs every three to four months. Children should also be taught basic hygiene with their pets and to not let dogs lick their faces.

It is every dog owner's duty to clean up after their dog. There are no excuses, fouling is socially unacceptable and illegal.



Contacts

Environmental Improvement Team

To investigate dog fouling, barking or other dog-related problems.

01327 871100

environmentalimprovement@daventrydc.gov.uk

www.daventrydc.gov.uk/dogfouling

Dogs Trust

National dog welfare charity

0207 837 0006

www.dogstrust.org.uk

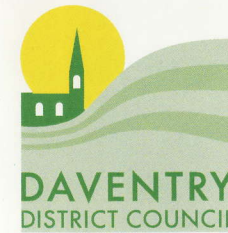
Keep Britain Tidy

National Environmental Organisation

01942 612 621

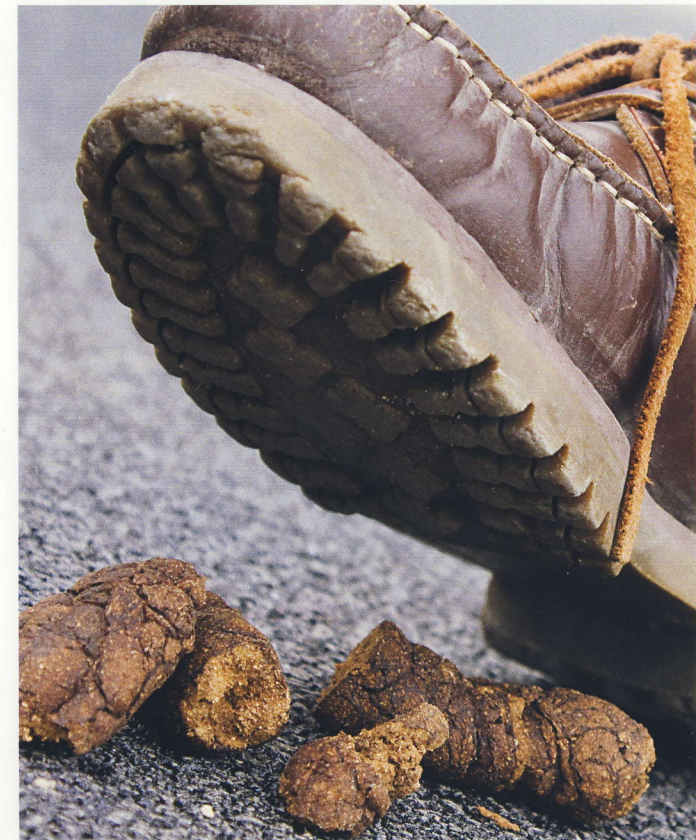
enquiries@keepbritaintidy.org

www.keepbritaintidy.org



Dog Fouling

A guide for the public



Clean up after your dog

IT'S THE LAW

