

## What is the best way of clearing up after my dog?

- Dog faeces can be cleared up using a bag (such as a biodegradable bag or a nappy sack).
- Sealed bags can then be placed into a designated dog waste bin.
- If a dog waste bin is not nearby, bagged dog faeces can either be taken home for disposal or placed carefully in a standard public litter bin.

## Stamp it out!

You can help to stamp out dog fouling in Torbay by reporting offences to the council's Community Protection Team. Information provided to the team by members of the local community can assist in the way in which the Dog Wardens do their patrols.

When reporting an offence of dog fouling to Community Protection, think about the following:

- Do you know of a dog owner who never or hardly ever picks up after their pet?
- Do they usually walk the dog at a certain time during the day?
- Where are the offences taking place?
- What does the dog look like?
- What does the owner look like?
- If the dog owner is using a car, what is the number on the registration plate?

Dog fouling can be tackled by the whole community working together and cases of dog fouling can be reported to the Community Protection Team.



Some dog owners think that they can get away with not picking up after their pet if a Dog Warden is not around, but as more and more people come forward to report dog fouling offences, irresponsible dog owners may start to think twice about their actions.

## Dog Wardens

Dog Wardens can provide information and advice on a range of issues including dog fouling and stray dogs. The Dog Wardens have a number of legal powers available to them and can issue fixed penalty notices for dog fouling and littering offences.

## Contacts

 **Community Protection (including the Dog Warden Service) 01803 208091**

 **community.protection@torbay.gov.uk**

 **1st Floor, Roebuck House, Abbey Road, Torquay, TQ2 5EJ**

**Dog fouling is anti-social and disrespectful. If you don't want to tolerate dog fouling in your community take a stand and report offences.**

Need this in another format or language? Please contact 01803 208091 or email [environmental.protection@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.protection@torbay.gov.uk)

# IT'S FOUL!

## Doggy do's and don'ts



**TORBAY**  
COUNCIL

**Be a responsible dog owner and clear up after your pet**

"IT'S FOUL...  
NO MESSING...  
PICK IT UP."



Nobody likes dog poo in public places. If you have ever stepped in dog faeces, you will probably agree that it is smelly and very difficult to remove from shoes. As well as being unpleasant, dog faeces is potentially harmful and whilst the majority of dog owners are responsible and do pick up after their pets, a small number of people choose to ignore the rules.

In Torbay dog faeces can be disposed of in designated dog waste bins. If a designated dog waste bin is not available, dog faeces should be sealed well in a bag and disposed of in a standard public litter bin.

Owning a dog is fun and they can be great companions but dog ownership also comes with responsibilities. Those responsibilities range from responsibilities to the dog itself (for example, to feed it and make sure that it has a good level of exercise) and responsibilities to others (keeping a dog on a lead when appropriate). If a dog fouls in a public place, it is the responsibility of the owner (or the person in charge of the dog at the time) to clean up after it.

## The facts

- In Britain 1,000 tonnes of dog mess is produced every day by our 7.5 million pet dogs.
- Research has indicated that around 60% of dog owners in the UK don't pick up after their pets.

- Dog faeces are dangerous to public health and can cause illness.
- Dogs mess is bad for the environment and very anti-social!

## Why should I scoop the poop?

If a dog fouls in a public place, by law (the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005) the owner or the person in charge of the dog at the time must clean up after it. A 'public place' means any area that is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or have permission to have access (with or without payment).

Some examples of the type of land covered by the law include:

- The highways (for example roads, pavements, public footpaths, byways etc)
- Parks
- Town centres and shopping precincts
- Car parks
- Playing fields

## Breaking the rules

Anyone that chooses not to clean up after their dog in Torbay can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN). The FPN charge for dog fouling in Torbay is £75 with a £25 reduction available if payment of the Notice is made within 7 days. FPNs are issued as an alternative to prosecution and should a prosecution be pursued by the council, offenders could face a maximum fine of £1,000. Owners that bag the mess but don't bin it (i.e. they throw the bag in a hedge or a tree) could face a maximum penalty of £2,500 for a littering offence.

## Your dog and worms

Dog faeces can contain the eggs of the Toxocara worm (a type of round worm). Humans can become infected by accidentally ingesting worm eggs or by eating food that is contaminated with soil containing the eggs. Toxocariasis (which is the name of the condition that the Toxocara worm can cause) cannot be spread from person to person. There are three forms of toxocariasis, one of which can cause damage to the eye, reducing vision and in some cases causing blindness.

It is thought that children are at a higher risk of developing toxocariasis as they are more likely to come into contact with soil or sand that contains faeces. Cases of toxocariasis have also been found in sportspeople where dog faeces have been left on recreational play areas and sports pitches.

Toxocara worm eggs need time to develop in areas such as soil for several weeks before they are able to infect humans, which is why it is important to clear up dog faeces immediately. If dog faeces are not picked up, the toxocara eggs can develop and infect anyone who comes into contact with them in the future.

Cases of toxocariasis could be reduced by owners picking up immediately after their pet, and by ensuring that their dog is wormed regularly (contact your local vet for further advice).

