



## **Dog Poo – Grab it, bag it and bin it this summer!**

**Dog owners are being encouraged, by Keep Scotland Tidy and the Dogs Trust, to help keep streets and public spaces clean this summer by following the simple ‘Grab it, bag it, bin it’ mantra as part of National Poop Scoop Week 2010 which runs from 26<sup>th</sup> July – 1<sup>st</sup> Aug.**

A survey carried out by Keep Scotland Beautiful shows that 52% of people think dog poo is the most offensive waste item found on our streets and public spaces, and as six percent of Scottish streets are affected by it, Keep Scotland Beautiful believes that there is still a need to get the message out that leaving your dog's poo for someone to stand in is not acceptable.

During National Poop Scoop Week 2010, Keep Scotland Tidy will be supporting a number of ‘doggy’ events across Scotland, in parks in Glasgow, North Lanarkshire, North Ayrshire and the Highlands. Giant dog mascots will be there, along with staff from Keep Scotland Beautiful, local councils and other partners who will all be on hand to provide information and free poo bags to dog walkers.

Keep Scotland Tidy Campaigns Officer, Valerie Carson, said, “It is fantastic that Keep Scotland Tidy are joining up with the Dogs Trust for the third year running, to promote the National Poop Scoop Week campaign which aims to remind dog walkers in a fun and friendly way to ‘Grab it, bag it, bin it’.

“Keep Scotland Beautiful has recorded a reduction in overall levels of dog fouling on our streets in recent years, but it still offends a significant number of people in public spaces. Approximately 1,000 tonnes of dog poo is produced a day in the UK, and while the majority of owners are responsible and pick up after their dogs, a careless minority are still leaving the mess behind for others to step in, and each year thousands of complaints are made about dog fouling spoiling our parks and streets. AND it is

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illegal not to pick up after your dog – you can be fined £40 – so it makes sense to bag the waste and place it in the nearest convenient bin... and please don't just leave the bag for others to find!

“We look forward to seeing you all at the various events across Scotland – look out for Keep Scotland Tidy staff in our dog costumes!”

National Poop Scoop Week is all about persuading people to take three important steps towards reducing the problem of dog fouling in Scotland.

1. **GRAB IT** - Always keep a supply of bags near your dog's lead so you don't forget to take them with you on every walk. Simply insert your hand in the bag and pick up your dog's waste.
2. **BAG IT** - Carefully turn the bag inside out and 'bag' your dog's mess.
3. **BIN IT** - Dispose of the bag in a bin. Dog waste can be put in a public litter bin if a specific dog waste bin is not provided.

Clarissa Baldwin OBE, Chief Executive of the Dogs Trust, which runs National Poop Scoop Week across the UK, said, “We want Poop Scoop Week to be about saying thank you and well done to the millions of well-behaved dog owners, but also to remind the irresponsible minority that your dog can't pick up after itself.

“If every dog owner fulfils their duty, we can all look forward to summer strolls and picnics in parks, free from the worry of dog poop! Let's make Poop Scoop Week the week everybody takes responsibility – we will be amazed at the difference we can make.”

- Ends -

For further information please contact:

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**Photo opportunities** will be available throughout National Poop Scoop Week. Please contact Juliette to find out exactly where the mascots and 'pooper scooters' will be on each day.

Please visit <http://news.keepscotlandbeautiful.org/PoopScoop.asp> for further information

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### Note to the Editors

- Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) is an environmental charity which aims to protect, preserve and enhance the environment of town and country in Scotland for the benefit of the public. Keep Scotland Beautiful administers the People and Places, Keep Scotland Tidy, Blue Flag and Seaside Award, and the Eco-Schools environmental programmes along with the Sustainable Scotland Network, Climate Challenge Fund and Going Carbon Neutral Stirling campaigns. Keep Scotland Tidy is supported by the Scottish Government through its Zero Waste Scotland Programme. Further information can be found at [www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org)
- Zero Waste Scotland is the new programme created by the Scottish Government to support delivery of its Zero Waste plan. Zero Waste Scotland has been created to provide a one-stop-shop for support and advice to individuals, businesses and local authorities in order to help them reduce waste, recycle more and use natural resources more efficiently. It will integrate the activities of WRAP Scotland, Waste Aware Scotland, Keep Scotland Tidy, Remade Scotland, Envirowise in Scotland, NISP in Scotland, and some programmes delivered by the Community Recycling Network for Scotland.
- National Poop Scoop Week takes place throughout the UK each summer. The campaign was founded by the Dogs Trust and is promoted by KSB in Scotland. National Poop Scoop Week 2010 will take place between 26<sup>th</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> Aug.
- Dogs Trust is the UK's largest dog welfare charity it has run National Poop Scoop Week since 2000. Keep Scotland Beautiful has been supporting the week with a Scottish road show for the past three years. Further details can be found at: [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk)
- Here's where you'll find the roadshow:
  - **Sat 24th July** - Queens Park, [Glasgow](#)
  - **Sun 25th July** - [Dogs Trust Family Fun Day & Fun Dog Show](#), Strathclyde Park, [North Lanarkshire](#)
  - **Tue 27th July** - Saltcoats beach front, [North Ayrshire](#)
  - **Sun 1st Aug** - Forestry Commission's [Top Dog's Day Out](#), Glenmore Forest Park, near Loch Morlich
- The campaign's key message to dog owners is: **Grab it, Bag it, Bin it.**
- The Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 aims to protect residents from the risks and dangers of abandoned dog faeces. The Act states that it is an offence for the person in charge of a dog to leave its mess without removing it. Both the police and authorised local council staff can issue a fixed penalty notice of £40 to those they suspect of committing an offence under the Act.
- In a survey of local councils carried out by KSB in summer 2010, of those who participated, all respondents said they have adopted the powers to issue FPNs for dog fouling under Section 5 of the 2006 Act. The large majority of councils also provide free dog poo bags, so there's no excuse!
- Two dog fouling campaign posters and leaflets are available for download at <http://www.keepsotlandtidy.org/poopscoopweek.asp>