

Research

- 69% of people rate dog faeces as the item on our streets, parks and beaches that bothered them most.
- 52% of people in Scotland say that dog fouling is the waste item on our streets and public spaces that offends them most.
- The Scottish Household Survey 2009 highlighted that 24% of adults perceive animal nuisance such as noise or dog fouling to be a problem. Higher than drug misuse or rowdy behaviour.

The Law

- 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.
- Approximately 1,000 tonnes of dog faeces are produced every day in the UK. (with Yorkshire terriers producing 100g a day while a St Bernard produces about 1kg!)
- 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 law says that every effort should be made to clean up after your dog. However, there are notable exceptions for working dogs (for example, a dog in the care of a blind or disabled person, sheep or cattle farmer, or army/customs/police or rescue officials). Please see the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 for full details.

Health Risks

- Dog fouling can lead to an increased risk in disease if dogs are not regularly wormed. *Toxocara canis* can pass from dog poo to humans as *Toxocariasis* through contaminated sand or soil, or by playing with dogs which have licked eggs from their bodies or faeces.
- The National Farmers' Union (NFU) in Scotland has warned that faeces left by dogs near agricultural land can harm cattle and sheep. There has been an increase in cases of a disease, *Neospora*, which is spread through the faeces of infected dogs and causes cows to miscarry. Another parasite, *Sarcocystosis*, is spread the same way and can cause illness and death in livestock. Cattle can also pick up the disease from contaminated feed or water but dog faeces are a potential risk too so the precautionary principle would be to pick up your pets faeces from rural and city locations.

Key Messages

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.

Grab it, bag it, bin it. Any bin will do.