

Exceptions and Exemptions



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/police or rescue officials).

Please see the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 for full details.



Clean Up Scotland



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Keep Scotland Beautiful's new mass engagement campaign, Clean Up Scotland is engaging, supporting and recognising individuals, communities and businesses across Scotland who are improving their part of Scotland. Dog fouling is one of the six incivilities which the campaign focuses on, and action will be carried out annually to raise awareness of the severity of the issue.

You can help us tackle dog fouling by:

Always following the mantra –
'Grab it, Bag it, Bin it – any bin will do'

Backing the campaign at www.cleanupscotland.com;
and getting involved in activities to tackle dog fouling throughout the year.

Disclaimer

This document can only serve as a guide to the law relating to dog fouling.

It does not constitute legal advice and may be misleading if relied upon as a complete explanation of the legal issues involved. If any matter is to be acted upon, the full texts of the relevant statutory instruments must be consulted. For further details please visit www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation

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Cleaning up after your dog



PLEASE USE
THIS BIN TO
DISPOSE OF BOTH
LITTER AND
DOG WASTE





Risking a fine

If you don't clean up after your dog, council staff or the police can issue you with a Fixed Penalty Notice of £40, which increases if it's not paid.

Public enemy No.1

Dog fouling rates highly on any list of local complaints. In a nation-wide survey 69% of the Scottish public said that dog fouling bothered them more than any other type of litter and 52% singled it out as the type that offended them most.

Causing unpleasantness and embarrassment

Anyone who has stepped in dog faeces knows that it is dirty, smelly and difficult to clean off your shoe, which can be both unpleasant and embarrassing.

Spreading disease

As soon as you step into dog mess, it spreads. Not only is it unsightly, but it can increase the risk of disease (Toxocara canis), which is harmful to humans.

Bothered by dog fouling?



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



Encourage other dog owners to follow your example and act responsibly!



So what am I supposed to do?

Always be prepared to clean up after your dog by taking a supply of bags and/or a poop-scoop with you every time you leave the house. (Your local council may provide special bags free of charge.) Or, if you have a garden, train your dog to "go" there before you take it for a walk.

Pick up the mess immediately and make sure you put used bags in the bin (public litter bins or special dog waste bins are both suitable for the disposal of dog waste, or your own domestic bin would do as long as the bag is properly sealed). It is not enough to bag the faeces and throw it over a fence - or hang it on a tree. If you make a mental note of where public bins are on your walking route you will be able to dispose of the waste quickly and efficiently.

