

Dear Sir / Madam

Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003

With reference to the above subject, X Council has received a number of complaints from members of the public concerning dog fouling within "*****; ADDRESS ***".

Section 3 of The Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 states if a dog defecates at any time upon any place to which this Act applies and a person who is in charge of the dog at that time fails immediately to remove the faeces from the place, that person shall be guilty of an offence.

The Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 applies, to any place which is open to the air to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission; and any common passage, close, court, stair, back green, garden, yard or other similar common area.

I am taking the opportunity to provide information on the legal responsibilities of a dog owner; even if you are not in this category; it is advisable that you are aware of the ramifications of "Dog Faeces" not being immediately bagged and uplifted by the owner or person responsible for the dog at that time. Therefor to highlight why "Dog Fouling" should be considered as a serious issue; I have listed the various transferable conditions which can result on the reverse of this page.

I hope that this information has provided you with sufficient details on why "Dog Fouling" should not be allowed to remain on the ground and should be placed into any available communal / public bin; nor left to one side even if bagged.

Patrols by the local Enforcement Officer have increased and persons found committing such an offence can either be issued with a £80 Fixed Penalty Notice or reported to the Procurator Fiscal for the consideration of a criminal prosecution.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter

Yours Sincerely

Environmental Warden

Communicable Diseases from Dogs to Humans

- **Ringworm:** also known as dermatophytosis, this disease is caused by a fungus (not an actual worm) which leads to circular patches on the skin. Spores from this fungus makes its way into a shared environment, infecting other dogs, other cats and even humans.
- **Scabies:** this is caused by a mite which burrows into the skin producing pruritus (pus) and areas which develop into wounds and cause [alopecia](#). When the mite is in the environment, it can be very contagious especially with young or immunosuppressed dogs. Not all types of scabies are considered zoonoses. The most common one in dogs is known as sarcoptic mange and is cause by the mite *Sarcoptes scabiei*.
- **Leptospirosis:** This is a bacterial disease for which there is no vaccine. The symptoms it produces are varied including **High fever, headache, chills, muscle aches, vomiting, jaundice (yellow skin/eyes), red eyes, abdominal pain and can affect the digestive system, the liver or kidneys**. The bacteria spreads through the urine of dogs and can remain in the ground for a period of months. Both other dogs and humans can be infected by coming in contact with this material.
- **Leishmaniasis in dogs and humans:** The symptoms are varied as it is divided into different types, but they all will form some sort of skin legion whether sores or ulcers. Treatment is essential as some forms of leishmaniasis can be fatal if left untreated. Vaccination against the disease is available, but prevention is the most important method of treatment.
- **Campylobacter Enteritis :** It's a disease that causes intermittent diarrhoea that lasts for weeks or even months at a time. It might not show up in this sense in your dog, but it will show up in you and your family members.
- **Endocarditis :** When a dog infected with this bites a human, it will cause endocarditis. This is a heart condition that can cause death if not treated right away. It's easy to spot because it's a disease that comes with a myriad of symptoms. The most common symptoms include fever, chills, heart murmurs, shortness of breath, cough, fatigue, aching muscles and severe paleness. It's something that must be treated with medical help as soon as possible
- **Meningitis :** When a dog bites a human, he can pass along an infection from bacterium called pasteurilla multocida. This can cause a myriad of illnesses including meningitis. The first signs of meningitis might include a sore neck or back, headaches that are severe enough to be mistaken for migraines, severe nausea, rashes, seizures and extreme confusion. It's sometimes difficult to diagnose in all cases, and it's something that will last a long time. It requires medical attention and prescription medication to get rid of meningitis, which means that it will require a significant recovery time.
- **Brucellosis :** This one is difficult to diagnose, however, because it comes with a myriad of common symptoms. A high fever, back pain and fatigue are all common, but they're all common in many different cases as well. These symptoms last anywhere from two weeks to a month and are known to come back over time.
- **Toxocariasis is a rare infection caused by roundworm parasites. Humans can catch it from handling soil or sand contaminated with infected animal faeces.** In rare cases, the roundworm larvae infect organs such as the liver, lungs, eyes or brain and cause severe symptoms, such as: fatigue; loss of appetite or weight loss; skin rashes; wheezing or breathing difficulties; seizures (fits); blurred or cloudy vision, usually only affecting one eye or a very red and painful eye. If one of your eyes is affected by toxocariasis, there's a risk of permanent [vision loss](#). The [roundworm](#) parasites responsible for toxocariasis (called Toxocara) live in the digestive system of dogs, cats and foxes. The worms produce eggs, which are released in the faeces of infected animals and contaminate soil. The eggs only become infectious after 10 to 21 days, so there's no immediate danger from fresh animal faeces. Once the eggs are passed into sand or soil, they can survive for many months. Humans can become infected if contaminated soil gets into their mouth. Once the eggs are inside the human body, they move into the bowel before hatching and releasing larvae (the earliest stage of development). These larvae can travel to most parts of the body. However, as humans are not the normal host for these larvae, they can't develop beyond this stage to produce eggs. This means the infection cannot spread between humans.

If you have a pet cat or dog, they should be regularly de-wormed and their faeces should be disposed of immediately.