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Stockton-on-Tees BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Environmental Health** 





Fouling & You

Leaflet D2

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# Is dog fouling an offence?

Under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 it is an offence not to clean up after your dog on most footpaths, bridle paths, parks, grass verges and amenity areas in the borough.

Owning a dog gives great pleasure and companionship to many. However, with ownership comes responsibilities beyond just making sure the dog is fed, looked after and exercised. Everyone thinks that dog mess is disgusting. This leaflet sets out your responsibilities as a dog owner and how you can do your bit to reduce dog mess and keep the environment cleaner for all of us.

If your dog goes while you are out it is important that you clean up after it. Not only is this the right thing to do but it is also the law! Don't leave it for someone else to tread in it. Although there are various designs of poop scoop devices you can buy perhaps the simplest and best to use is a bag. You can buy special ones made for this or just use other bags.

If there is a 'dog bin' nearby then tie the bag up and place it in this. If there is no dog bin, then take it home with you and put it in with your household rubbish.

# Toilet training your dog

#### Start early

A puppy needs to go to the toilet very often so start by putting him outside in a suitable place when you think he needs to go. Keep repeating this and when successful, praise him. If you can't get outside, use a litter tray.

#### Regular times

Get your dog used to a routine. Have regular times when you take him out for instance in the morning after meals and in the evening.

### Going on command

Use a command word ("clean" or "busy") just as he is about to go to the toilet so he associates this with going. Always use the same tone of voice and if successful praise him once he has finished. By training him you can get him to go where you want him to – instead of places that are not suitable.

## Dog fouling bins

- If a dog fouling bin is full or there is a problem , please call Care For Your Area on (01642) 391959
- Dog fouling bins are provided via individual ward members environment budgets. If you feel a bin is required in a specific area please contact your local ward councillor to raise the issue for consideration.

- It is the responsibility of the person in charge of a dog to make sure a fouling offence does not happen.
- Allowing a dog to mess in a public area is an antisocial act that produces an unpleasant environment and can pose health risks for others, particularly children.
- If you have any queries or can help us to identify any offenders, please call the Animal Welfare Service on (01642) 526575

# Help us to clean up your local Environment

If you see a dog fouling in a designated area and the owner does not clean up after it, we can investigate further if you help us to collect as much of the following information as possible:

- Date
- Time
- Location
- Description of owner and dog
- Dog owner's name

and most important ...

You saw the dog foul