



**AT THIS AGE THEY WILL PICK UP
ANYTHING**

CLEAR UP AFTER YOUR DOG

The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 requires that all dog owners must clean up after their dog if it fouls in a public place.

Dog mess is a problem which affects everyone, It is not just unsightly and unpleasant, it is a health hazard. Dogs may deposit roundworm eggs (toxocaracanis) in their faeces, which becomes infectious after about 3 weeks and remains so for 2 further years. Anyone can run the risk of picking up these eggs and swallowing them, particularly children who play on the ground.

In some areas there are already special dog waste bins, However, litterbins can be used or the faeces can be taken home for disposal. Get into the 'clean up' habit wherever you go, use an old carrier bag, nappy bags or purchase some special "Poo Bags".

(Nothing in this section applies to a person registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the (1948 c. 29.) National Assistance Act 1948).

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG?

You could be issued with an on-the-spot fine of £50 each time an offence occurs. These are not reasonable excuses for failing to pick up the mess:

- Being unaware that your dog has fouled
- Not having something to clear up with i.e., a poop scoop or bag to put it in
- A 'bad back'

You cannot afford to ignore your dog if it fouls.

With sufficient evidence against a persistent offender or those who refuse to pay an on-the-spot fine, the District Council will not hesitate to prosecute. This could lead to a fine of up to

£1000

YOU MUST CLEAN UP IN THESE AREAS

- All carriageways with a speed limit of 40mph or less, including any additional footways, pavements, footpaths, road gutters, cycle paths or lanes, and grassed and ornamental verges.
- Footpaths, bridleways, cycle paths and rights of way except where they cross agricultural land or land used for woodlands.
- All alleys, passageways and other rights of way whether or not in private ownership.

- Any parks, garden, recreation and sports grounds open to the public. All amenity areas and children's play areas, whether planted, grassed, paved, concreted or otherwise surfaced in and around towns and villages including all housing developments, whether private or House Association.
- All Churchyards (whether closed or not) and consecrated ground, burial grounds and cemeteries.
- All shopping precincts, centres and pedestrianised areas.
- All car parks and other vehicle parking areas whether maintained by Sevenoaks District Council, a Town Council or a Parish Council or privately owned.
- All land and paths associated with allotments.

WHAT ELSE MUST A DOG OWNER DO?

- Your dog must have a collar and tag with contact details if it is in a public place. You may want to consider having your dog micro-chipped as well.
- Do not allow your dog to stray.
- You must keep your dog under control.
- You must not allow your dog to become a danger or a nuisance to people or other animals.
- Do not allow your dog to cause a nuisance by barking or howling etc.
- Do not allow your dog to go into restricted areas such as children's play areas, or any area displaying restriction signs.

THE DISTRICT COUNCIL'S ANIMAL WELFARE SERVICE

can help with advice and action in

- Enforcing the clean-up law
- Collecting stray dogs
- Dealing with complaints about barking dogs
- Dealing with other dog-related complaints
- Responsible dog ownership
- Micro-chipping at reasonable rates.

The Animal Welfare Officer can arrange the pick up of stray dogs (provided they have been contained in an area such as a garden, and they are unable to escape), and reuniting them with their owners. If the owner cannot be traced immediately, the dog will be taken to kennels.

Any dog taken to kennels and not claimed within 7 days will be rehomed. The District Council actively refrains from have a dog humanely destroyed unless there is no other option available, or due to the medical condition or temperament of a dog.

If you lose your dog, you can call the District Council on 01732 227000 giving the full description of the dog. This service is available 24 hours per day.

If your dog has been found and already taken to kennels you will have to pay a statutory fee, plus kennel fees before the dog is returned to your home.

Please do note that if you lose your dog after 16.45 on a Friday evening, or at any time over Saturday or Sunday, you will not be reunited with your dog until Monday, subject to the fees being paid.

You will pay kennelling fees for each day (or part of a day) the dog was lost, including the day it went missing and the day it is returned to you, so losing your dog after close of business on Friday evening would cost the statutory fee plus 4 days of kennel fees.

Contact:

Animal Welfare Officer
Environmental Protection Team
Community & Planning Services
Sevenoaks District Council
PO Box 182
Argyle Road
Sevenoaks
Kent TN13 1GP

www.sevenoaks.gov.uk

email: environmental.protection@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Tel 01732 227000