

# Information on responsible dog ownership and dog fouling

## The Problem:

Dog faeces is dirty, unsightly and a nuisance. In addition it has serious health implications especially for children and pregnant women. It can spread diseases which can cause a variety of illnesses from stomach upsets to blindness.

Dog fouling causes a major problem to the environment across the city. The clean up costs to the council run into thousands of pounds each month as they have to employ extra resources to collect and dispose of such waste. As a result, Leeds City Council takes a zero tolerance approach to dog fouling offences.

## The offence:

It is an offence for a person who is in charge of a dog to allow it to foul on land which is open to the air and fail to remove the faeces immediately. Being unaware of the fouling, whether by reason of not being in the area or otherwise, or not having a device for or suitable means of removing the faeces is not a reasonable excuse for failing to remove it.



## The penalties:

Authorised officers of the council issue Fixed Penalty Notices of £75 as an alternative to prosecution to anyone who commits an offence. Failure to pay will result in prosecution in the Magistrates' Court where the maximum fine for the offence is £1,000.

## The advice:

- Always ensure that whoever is walking your dog takes plastic bags/nappy sacks or poo bags with them and is prepared to pick up after the dog. It is not a defence to say that you did not have any bags with you at the time.
- It may be advisable not to allow young children to walk the dog unsupervised, due to the health implications of dog faeces but also to help keep the dog under proper control and protect the child in the event of any dangerous dog incidents.
- Do not let your dog roam out of your sight in case it should foul and you fail to notice it. A fixed penalty notice could still be issued in these circumstances.
- Provided that you have contained the waste. You can place the faeces in any public litter bin or take it home with you to put it in your own bin.
- Dog wardens carry out regular patrols in your area and will issue fixed penalty notices to anyone seen committing an offence.
- Any incidents of dog fouling or other service requests for the dog wardens can be reported via the council's contact centre on [0113 222 4406](tel:01132224406) or by email to [environmental.action@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.action@leeds.gov.uk)

Produced in partnership by the Outer South Area Committee and Leeds City Council Dog Warden Team.