



Clear up after your dog

A cleaner neighbourhood. We all want it. We can all help to achieve it. No one likes dog mess.

POOP SCOOPING AND THE LAW

Under the provisions of the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 it is currently an offence to fail to clear up after your dog on most land open to the public in the Waveney District. In the near future, we will begin issuing fixed penalty notices to people who fail to clean up after their dogs.



This leaflet explains how you can do your bit by helping reduce dog mess on the streets, parks and beaches.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING

Being a responsible dog owner means more than making sure your dog is well fed and looked after. Dogs need to be trained and part of this is toilet training.

It is best to train when the dog is still a puppy. But older dogs can learn too.

How to start: A puppy goes to the toilet very frequently, so begin by putting him outside in a suitable spot if you think he seems to want to go. Keep repeating this and praise him when he finishes. If you can't get outside, get your puppy to use a litter tray.

Regular times: Get your dog used to a routine. Build up regular times when you take him out - in the morning, after a meal and at night.

Going on command: Use a command word such as "clean" or "busy" just as he is about to go to the toilet. Always use the same tone of voice and praise him when he has finished. Training him means he will go where you want him to - and not in unsuitable places.

GOING AT HOME

If you've got a garden, then why not screen off a small area where you can train your dog to go. You can then bury the mess in the garden or pick it up using a poop scoop.

You can wrap up the used poop scoop in a plastic bag and dispose of it with your normal household waste.

If you don't have a garden and your dog is not too large, try training your dog to use a litter tray.

Dispose of the contents of the litter tray by double wrapping it in plastic bags and dispose of it with your normal household waste.

WHAT ABOUT WHEN I AM OUT WITH MY DOG?

If your dog needs to go while you're out, "**scoop the poop**". You can buy all sorts of different poop scoops cheaply at pet shops and some supermarkets. Waveney District Council sells poop scoops bags at council offices and other outlets. If you don't have a poop scoop with you, you can use a newspaper or plastic bag.

If you use a poop scoop, you will not need to touch the mess directly. Many designs of poop scoop involve a plastic bag, which can be tied up before you dispose of it.

You can purchase biodegradable plastic poop-scoop bags from council cash offices and other outlets. Phone us for details.

Whatever type of poop scoop you use, remember to wash your hands as soon as you can afterwards.

Dog mess can contain a number of things which can make people ill - best known of which is infection with **Toxocara canis**, which is a roundworm. If the eggs of this worm are swallowed, this can result in a range of symptoms from aches and pains to bronchial conditions. In rare cases eyesight can be damaged.

You can reduce the risks of these effects by:

- worming your dog regularly;
- always clearing up after your dog;
- good hygiene practice.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THE POOP SCOOP WHEN IT'S BEEN USED

Some areas are provided with special bins where you can put your used poop scoops.

If there are no bins around, take the poop scoop home and dispose of it. If that is not possible, then as a last resort wrap the used poop scoop again in a plastic bag and dispose of it in a litter bin. You should never dispose of your used poop scoop by throwing it in the undergrowth.

WORMING YOUR DOG

Worms can affect a dog at any age. Make sure your dog is wormed regularly. Worms can cause sickness and

diarrhoea in young animals; but adult dogs may show no symptoms. Worming is easy, effective and costs very little. You can get worming treatments from your pharmacist, vet, pet shop or larger branches of supermarkets. Follow the maker's instructions carefully. The treatment required depends on your dog's weight.

Adult dogs should be wormed at least every 6 months. Pregnant bitches and bitches with young puppies should be wormed more frequently. With puppies seek veterinary advice, but in general puppies should be wormed when they are about 2 weeks old and then treated at regular intervals until they are 6 months.

FORTHCOMING CHANGES

The Government has recently given local authorities powers to make "Dog Control Orders" to control other activities of dog owners. There are 5 dog control matters capable of being prescribed in a Dog Control Order.

They are:

- failing to remove dog faeces;
- not keeping a dog on a lead;
- not putting, and keeping, a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer;
- permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded;
- taking more than a specified number of dogs onto land.

Offences are punishable by a fine of up to £1000 upon conviction, or a fixed penalty notice – (£80)

CONSULTATION

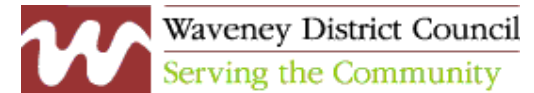
We would like to know what you think about these aspects of dog control. If you would like to make a suggestion or a comment, please write to:

**Environmental Health
Waveney District Council
Town Hall, High Street
Lowestoft NR32 1HS**

Or visit our website at www.waveney.gov.uk and use the feedback form.

CLEAR UP AFTER YOUR DOG

Supported by:



Issued by: **Waveney District Council, Town Hall,
High Street, Lowestoft NR32 1HS
(01502) 523117
July 2006**