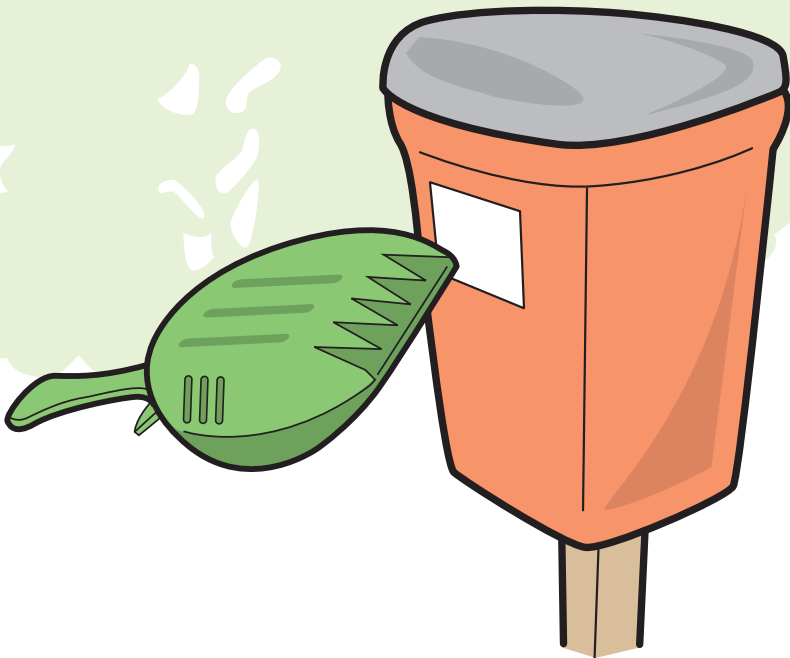


Scoop the poop!

For a cleaner
neighbourhood and
safer environment



We all want a cleaner neighbourhood. We can all help to achieve it. No one likes dog mess. This leaflet explains how you – as a responsible dog owner – 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 a puppy but older dogs can learn too.

Training

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 mornings, 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 or plastic bag. Wrap up the used poop scoop in a plastic bag and dispose of it with your normal household waste. Alternatively, have a dog loo installed in your garden and deposit the waste in that. Dog loos are put into the ground of a garden and use chemicals to break down the dog mess.

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.

But 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. If you don't have a poop scoop with you, you can use a newspaper or plastic bag. Many people use babies nappy bags or supermarket carrier bags as a type of glove in which they collect the waste.

Scoop the poop

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.

Remember to wash your hands as soon as you can afterwards.

What should I do with the Poop Scoop when it's been used?

Many areas where dogs are walked have special bins provided where you can put your used poop scoops or bags of dog waste. These bins are often red.

If there are no bins around, take the poop scoop or bag 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.

Worming

- Worms can affect a dog at any age. Caring for your dog therefore includes making 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 six 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 two weeks old and then treated at regular intervals until they are six months.

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, eye sight can be damaged.

The risk to human health is small. You can reduce it further by:

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

Environmental Health



Poop scooping and the law

In January 2008, under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, NNDC introduced a Dog Control Order (The Fouling of Land by Dogs Order 2008). This Order designates all land open to the air (which includes land that is covered but open to the air on at least one side) and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access with or without payment, as a poop scoop area. If land is designate under this Act and you don't clean up after your dog, you may be asked to pay a fixed penalty of £80 and taken to Cour for the offence if the fine is not paid.

It is in everyone's interest that dog mess is not left lying where people might tread or sit in it.

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Our switchboard - 01263 513811 operates from:

8:30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday

8:30am to 4:30pm Friday

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If you would like this leaflet in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please call North Norfolk District Council on 01263 513811, and we will do our best to help.