

# NOTICE TO ALL DOG OWNERS

**It is an offence if your dog fouls on public land and you fail to remove the faeces.**

Under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 failure to clean up dog fouling is an offence subject to a maximum fine of **£1,000**. Local authorities can also give offenders the option of paying a fixed penalty fine of **£50** rather than going to **court**.

## ***What are the health risks associated with dog fouling?***

*Dog faeces carry harmful infections, the most widely known being Toxocariasis. Human Toxocariasis is potentially a serious infection and is a direct consequence of soil or sand contamination with faeces carrying eggs of the parasite. The parasite can only infect humans if swallowed. Once swallowed, the infection can last between six and 24 months. Frequently the infection is through the hands, but can also be with the dogs themselves or through inanimate objects such as wheels of toys, soles of shoes, etc. Many infected soil samples are found in children's play areas and in the streets and as a result of this, Toxocariasis is mainly found in children between 18 months and five years. Eye disorders are the most commonly reported complaint associated with Toxocariasis, although other symptoms are vague aches, dizziness, nausea, asthma and epileptic fits.*

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