



Responsible dog ownership – dog fouling

It is likely that you are reading this leaflet because you recently made a complaint to the Council about a dog fouling issue or you would like more information about how to make a complaint.

Dangers of dog fouling

The vast majority of dog owners are responsible and clean up after their pets but a small portion of them refuse to do so. Dog fouling is unsightly it can also be dangerous. Toxocariasis is an infection that is caused by a parasite that lives in dog faeces. The infection is spread through contact with infected faeces of an animal or from infected soil. Children often play in soil and have a habit of putting their hands in their mouths, so they are more likely to contract this type of infection. In the worst cases, the infection can lead to blindness.

Enforcement action

If one of our enforcement officers observes an irresponsible dog owner allowing their dog(s) to foul and doesn't clean up after it, a fixed penalty notice can be served. If the fixed penalty notice is not paid, the dog owner could be prosecuted by the courts with a fine of up to £1,000.

The rules apply to everyone; anyone walking a dog can receive a fixed penalty notice even if they are not the owner of the animal.

How the enforcement team can help

We deliver regular campaigns to raise awareness of the issues around dog fouling and ask residents to help us target patrols to hotspot areas.

All dog fouling complaints received are investigated and to help us target our resources it is really helpful if you could provide as much detail as possible about the dog fouling issue. As well as patrolling an area, the enforcement officers will display signs and posters and spray stencils on the pavement (depending on the circumstances).

There are 450 (red) dog bins within the borough of Chesterfield. However, if a red bin cannot be located, we do promote the "any bin will do" message (providing that the waste is secured in a bag).

If you want to sort it report it.

To help the enforcement officers catch persistent offenders, we need your help. If you happen to witness dog fouling happening in your area then report this through our website: www.chesterfield.gov.uk/dogfouling or call 01246 345345.

Please provide as much information as possible, including:

- Where the dog fouling is taking place
- The dates and times that it's happening
- A description of the dog and the owner
- If the owner is in a vehicle, the car registration number

If you know who is responsible for dog fouling within your area then we can take a witness statement from you. This can be used by officers as evidence to issue a fixed penalty notice or even take the offender to court. However, if the case does go to court you may be called to provide evidence.

Should you have any queries or wish to make a complaint you can contact us

- In person at Chesterfield Borough Council, Revenues Hall, New Square, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S40 1AH
- By letter to Chesterfield Borough Council, Environmental Protection Team, Town Hall, Rose Hill, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S40 1LP
- By telephone to main switchboard on 01246 345345
- Via email/through website www.chesterfield.gov.uk
- Twitter @cbcenvironment