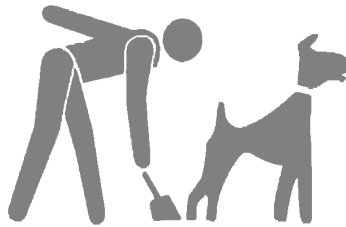


**DOG WARDEN
AND
ANIMAL WELFARE SERVICE**



DOG FOULING

The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 makes it an offence for any person in charge of a dog not to clear up immediately on any land, which the Council has designated.

Where does the Act apply?

The Council has designated all land in the open air to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access with or without payment. The requirement to clean up applies to:

- carriageways, footpaths, footways and grass verges within the 40 mph speed restriction area of most towns and villages;
- play areas, sports pitches and picnic areas;
- recreational and amenity open space including parks and public gardens;
- cemeteries, graveyards and grounds of places of public worship;
- village greens.

Where the Act does not apply?

- roads with a speed limit above 40 mph and the land running alongside them;
- agricultural land or woodland;
- land which is predominantly marshland, moor or heath;
- rural common land.

Penalty for dog fouling

The Act makes it an offence not to clear up **immediately** on any designated land. The offender can face a maximum fine of **£1,000**.

Common excuses that are no defence

'It is not my dog' - under the Act it is the person in charge who is responsible for cleaning up after the dog.

'I didn't see my dog do anything' - you are responsible for observing the dog's actions and complying with the law.

'The dog was out by itself and I wasn't with it' - as the owner or person in charge of the dog you are still responsible.

'The dog is ill' - you are still responsible for cleaning up.

Clearing up after your dog

If you have a small garden, why not screen off a small area where you can train your dog to go. You can then either bury the dog dirt in the garden, use a chemical toilet (as bought from a pet shop), or pick it up, double bag it and dispose of it with your normal household waste.

If you are out with your dog take some poop scoops or plastic carrier bags with you. There are a wide variety of poop scoops, which avoid you having to touch the mess directly. Poop scoops are available from pet shops, Ryedale District Council Offices and Tourist Information Offices.

Ryedale District Council, Town Councils and a number of Parish Councils now provide special dog-waste bins for disposal of your used poop scoops. If there are no such bins in the immediate area take the poop scoop home and dispose of it. If that is not possible, then as a last resort wrap up the used poop scoop again in a plastic bag, tie it and dispose of it in a litterbin.

What to do if you see an offence

The public are becoming less tolerant of the nuisance caused by irresponsible dog owners. This is particularly the case with responsible dog owners when the actions of the irresponsible owners tend to give all dog owners a bad name.

If you see an offence being committed you can take any of the following actions.

1. If you feel it is appropriate and safe to do so, speak to the offender and point out that by failing to pick up the dog dirt immediately they have broken the law. Provide them with a bag if you think this will encourage them.
2. If you feel it is inappropriate to make a direct approach, note any details of the offender, their dog, car and registration number, date and time. Contact the Council's Dog Warden and Animal Welfare Officer on 01653 600666 ext. 208.

If the person in charge of the dog can be traced or identified by yourself and you are prepared to sign a statement, the Council may be able to prosecute the offender. If you are not prepared to provide a statement, the officer will still follow up the complaint and contact the alleged offender. Your identity in this

case will be kept confidential but hopefully your reporting of the incident and the Council's intervention may prevent further offences occurring.

OFFENDERS FACE A MAXIMUM FINE OF £1,000

TAKE THE LEAD AND TAKE THE BAG

This leaflet aims to inform you of your legal responsibility as a dog owner or as someone who looks after somebody else's dog.

Ryedale District Council, as an environmental initiative, has provided certain well-used dog exercise areas with free poop scoop bags as well as bins to encourage proper disposal.

Failure to clear up your dog dirt in a public area produces an unpleasant environment and can pose health risks for others.

Should you identify any footpaths or public areas the Council are responsible for that require a special clean up please contact the Council's Commercial Services on 01653 600666.

HELP TO MAKE RYEDALE A CLEANER AND SAFER ENVIRONMENT

If you have any further questions or can help us to identify any offenders please contact:

The Dog Warden and Animal Welfare Officer
Environmental Health Services
Ryedale District Council
Ryedale House
Malton
North Yorkshire
YO17 7HH

Telephone: 01653 600666 ext. 208

Fax: 01653 600764

E-mail: dogwarden@ryedale.gov.uk

Web Site www.ryedale.gov.uk

The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996



**IT IS AN OFFENCE NOT TO CLEAN
UP AFTER YOUR DOG**

**MAXIMUM PENALTY
£1000**