



Dog fouling

Dog owners responsibilities

Never let your dog out on the lanes alone to 'go to the loo'. It is every dog owners duty to clean up after their dog. There are no excuses, fouling is unacceptable. Do:

- always carry bags to clear up after them or get a poop scoop
- dispose of the bag correctly by taking it home and placing it in your own bin or using a council litter bin, do not dump the bag in a hedge or elsewhere as this is littering which carries the same penalty as dog fouling
- worm your dog regularly (vets advise every 3 to 4 months)

Health

Apart from the legal consequences of dog fouling, there are health implications.

- symptoms vary but, in severe cases, partial or total loss of sight may occur or Toxocariasis which is caused by worm eggs being ingested.
- getting dog mess into wounds may also cause infections.
- children should be taught basic hygiene and not to let dogs lick their faces.
- There is also the danger of people being injured by slipping on dog mess.

The law

It is an offence not to remove any faeces deposited by your dog. This removal must be done without delay. The Cheshire West and Chester Council (Fouling of Land by Dogs) (General) Order 2017 applies to all open air areas in the borough and where the public have access, even if warning signs are not displayed.

There is a £80 fixed penalty notice if paid within 14 days or £50 if paid within 7 days. If a fixed penalty notice is not accepted you may get a subsequent criminal record and a maximum penalty of £1,000, if found guilty.

Reporting dog fouling

If you have seen anyone who has failed to pick up after their dog, please ensure to make a note of the following if possible and report it on [cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/streets-and-open-spaces/dog-and-animal-fouling](https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/streets-and-open-spaces/dog-and-animal-fouling):

- the day, date and time; what you have seen; the location
- any information about the dog (breed, colour etc.)

The council aim to clear the area and try to identify the person.

Experience with some boroughs is that the biggest deterrent is a community that is willing to provide the information and evidence to effectively enforce on those who think it is acceptable to leave their dog fouling behind either bagged or loose. If residents do provide a witness statement their details are kept confidential, and the offender would not be made aware of where the statement came from apart from the unlikely event of the witness being asked to attend court.

References

cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/streets-and-open-spaces/dog-and-animal-fouling

chelfordparishcouncil.org.uk/community/chelford-parish-council-13771/action-on-dog-fouling/

Antrobus Parish Council
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