

# The Dog Fouling problem In South Lakeland



The U.K's dog population produces an estimated 1000 tonnes of excrement per day.

South Lakeland District Council receives many complaints weekly

from residents and visitors to the area about dog fouling. Unfortunately, in most cases, the Council is unable to assist in solving the problem as present dog fouling bye-laws are limited.

## The New Law

In order to deal with the problem more effectively, South Lakeland District Council is implementing new dog fouling legislation called "The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996". This Act enforces responsible dog ownership across the whole of the district.

## Is Dog Fouling an Offence?

Dog fouling in public places has always been socially unacceptable but with certain exemption now it is a fineable offence. Under the new law, if you allow your dog to foul, you must clean it up or "scoop the poop" straight away. Failing to do this will make you liable for an initial fixed penalty of £50. Persistent offenders will be taken to a Magistrates Court and face a fine of up to £1,000! This maximum penalty may be increased in the future. A summary of the Act as it relates to South Lakeland District is available on a leaflet DF2 from the overleaf address.

## What Should Dog Owners Do?

Responsible owners do not allow their dogs to foul public places. Ideally, dogs should be trained from an early age to 'go at home' in their own garden or before or after a walk, rather than during. If a dog fouling does occur away from the home, the responsible owner will clean up after the dog. Any

suitable plastic bag can be used, or special poop-scoop bags can be purchased from pet shops, veterinary surgeries or stores.

## How to Poop-scoop

Simply place a bag over the dog mess and lift it whilst pulling the bag downwards. Or use two pieces of cardboard to "scoop the poop" and put it in the bag. Tie a knot in the bag and dispose of it in a bin or take it home for disposal.



## What can you do about a dog fouling offence?

If you wish to take action against a dog owner who has not cleaned up after their dog, you should note what happened as soon as possible. Include the name and address of the person in charge of the dog, a description of the dog plus details of the date, time and place of the offence. Then contact South Lakeland District Council and we will consider the evidence with a view to prosecution of the offender.

# DON'T FALL FOUL OF THE LAW!

## Checklist for responsible owners

- Always remember to carry a poop scoop or bag
- Always clean up after your dog
- Your dog should be taken out to exercise, not to foul
- Teach your dog to foul at home
- Try to make sure that your dog never fouls in public places
- Remember you could be guilty of an offence if you fail to remove and dispose of your dog's faeces
- Worm your dog – dogs that are not wormed regularly can carry infections
- Encourage other dog owners to do the same and report persistent offenders to South Lakeland District Council



## DON'T FALL FOUL OF THE LAW!

## ALWAYS REMEMBER TO SCOOP THE POOP OR FACE A HEAVY FINE!

### FURTHER INFORMATION

Other leaflets and general information on responsible dog ownership, dog fouling and the law are available from:

Customer Services Department  
Environmental Protection Group  
South Lakeland District Council  
South Lakeland House  
Lowther Street  
Kendal  
Cumbria LA9 4UD

Telephone: 0845 050 4434

[www.southlakeland.gov.uk](http://www.southlakeland.gov.uk)



## DOG FOULING AND THE LAW IN SOUTH LAKELAND



# £1000 FINE

## DON'T FALL FOUL OF THE LAW!