

CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS ACT 2005

DOG FOULING—PICK UP OR PAY UP

Dog mess is an eyesore and a health hazard. If you are a dog owner you have a legal duty to clean up every time your dog messes in a public place. Registered blind people are not required to clean up after their guide dog.

Dog owners are required to carry a poop scoop disposable bag whenever they take their dogs out to a public place. Dog bags can be placed in normal litter bins (not tossed into the hedge or side of a road). If no bin is available, dispose of it at home with the general waste.

Councils now have the power to tackle public mess under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environmental Act 2005. Council's can issue dog control orders against individual dog owners including allowing a dog to foul a public place also a fixed penalty order, local rate or £75. In serious cases, magistrates can issue a maximum penalty order of £1,000.

There is a particular problem in Uppingham; shopkeepers in the High Street seem to be plagued by a particular dog-owner who constantly lets his dog foul the pavement outside some of the shops. The grass verges on the Leicester Road are no go zones due to dog fouling. Tod's Piece is another area regardless of signs about dog fouling and keeping dogs on leads.

Poor control of dogs is also a problem on Uppingham School's playing fields. The school has long tolerated dog walkers on its private land but free ranging and poorly-controlled dogs intimidate other walkers and foul the pitches, which are used by children for sports.

Fouling on footpaths such as Pig Lane, the path running alongside Tod's Piece allotments, the path at the back of Dean's Terrace is difficult to avoid due to the narrowness of the paths. The wheels of prams, push chairs & mobility scooters become contaminated and excrement transferred into premises.

There is a risk to health from the *Toxocara canis* infection which is likely to affect children more than adults.

Most dog owners care for the environment and clean up, there are just a few who are inconsiderate, feel they are above the law and spoil the town. We would ask people to be vigilant and report dog owners who let their dogs foul or are off the lead in public places. A photograph is good evidence.

Uppingham Town Council is one of the few council's that has the General Power of Competence and are able to employ and train a dog warden to patrol the town and issue tickets to offenders.

LEICESTER ROAD ALLOTMENTS

Continuing on the dog theme; there is a sign at the entrance of the Leicester Road allotments requesting dog owners to keep their dogs on a lead and to poop scoop; there is a bin for this purpose. The path straight down from the gate to the bottom of the field is a public footpath, the rest of the field is owned by Uppingham Town Council who respectively request that dogs are not walked around this field. Dogs roaming free across allotments are not permitted and is unpleasant for allotment holders who are endeavouring to grow vegetables and fruit.