

DOG FOULING IN PITCHCOMBE

Pitchcombe is a beautiful Cotswold village but is unfortunately not untouched by the unpleasant issue of dog mess in public areas. Pitchcombe PC are anxious that all people living in and visiting our village operate to similar high standards when cleaning up after their pets to maintain the environment for all of us.

Dog fouling is:

1. **Unpleasant and unhygienic.** Stepping in dog mess can really spoil a nice walk!
2. **Illegal.** It is an offence to not clear up after your dog has fouled on any open public land. Not monitoring what your dog is doing or, not having poo bags for disposal, are not considered defence for not clearing dog mess.
3. **A health risk to other animals and humans.** Some of these health risks have been highlighted very well in recent editions of Village Voices.

Some of the more important health risks are:

Neospora caninum. This is a protozoan parasite, and the dog is the definitive host. This parasite is also one of the commonest causes of cattle abortion in the UK. Occasionally abortion in other species, such as sheep and horses, is reported. Cattle can become infected following contamination of grazing pasture by uncleared dog mess. Avoid letting your dog off the lead in fields where cattle may have given birth as they may ingest infected material.

Sarcocystosis. Another protozoan parasite. Sheep are the intermediate host and in this species cysts form in skeletal muscle and can be a significant cause of condemnation of meat. Keep dogs away from any livestock carcasses found in fields which may be a source of infection.

Toxocara canis. This is the dog roundworm. The adult worm lives in the dog's small intestine. Female worms are extremely fertile and can produce ~700 eggs per gram of faeces. Egg counts of up to 15,000 have been recorded in puppies. These eggs are highly resistant and can survive for years on the ground. These features make this a highly successful parasite. Inadvertent ingestion of infective eggs can cause visceral larval migrans in humans (especially children) where parasitic larvae migrate through body tissues causing symptoms such as dizziness, nausea, asthma, blindness, and seizures.

PLEASE CLEAR UP AFTER YOUR DOG.

Dog mess can be safely and legally disposed of in:

1. Dog poo bins. Stroud DC will not install any further bins within the district.
2. Public bins.
3. Domestic rubbish.

Please do not discard bagged dog mess in any other places. Discarded bagged faeces is unpleasant to see and an ecological disaster.

Follow veterinary advice concerning parasite control in your dog.

In conclusion, please pick up dog mess but especially on footpaths, verges and any agricultural land which can be grazed by livestock.

Pitchcombe Parish Council