



Dog Fouling is not acceptable

Dog fouling in Pitstone

Dog fouling has been spotted on a regular basis along our footpaths (especially Marsworth Road, Cheddington Road and Queen Street), on our recreation ground, along the permissive footpaths and in the open field off Westfield Road (which is not common ground as it is in private ownership & all dog fouling should be cleared). This inconsiderate behaviour from a minority of dog owners is completely unacceptable and causes particular problems on the approach to Brookmead School and Windmill Pre-School where it gets onto the wheels of pushchairs, onto children's shoes and then onto the carpets in the schools, where children then have to sit and touch the flooring with their hands.

How serious is this?

Dog mess is not only unpleasant it is a risk to health. The biggest threat to public health from dog excrement is toxocariasis, an infection of the roundworm *toxocara canis*. The eggs of the parasite can be found in soil or sand contaminated with faeces and if swallowed, result in infection that lasts between six and 24 months. Symptoms include eye disorders, vague ache, dizziness, nausea, asthma and, in extremely rare cases, seizures/fits. Toxocariasis most commonly affects small children as they tend to put their hands in their mouths after crawling around.

It is an offence for dog owners to fail to clear up any dog foul left by their dogs.

Offenders can be issued with a fixed penalty notice or a fine of up to £1,000 if the case goes to court. Being unaware that your dog has fouled or not having a suitable means of clearing up after your dog is no excuse – you should carry poop scoop bags whenever you are out with your dog.

Where do I have to clear up after my dog?

You should clean up after your dog wherever you are. Kicking dog waste into the gutters is not acceptable. Nor is kicking it under a hedge.

Where can I dispose of my dog's waste?

There are currently 16 dog waste bins in Pitstone alone. However, you can dispose of dog waste in suitable bags in any public litter bin, of which there are 19 in Pitstone, so there are 35 opportunities for you to dispose of your waste as you walk through our village. You can also take your dog waste home and dispose of it in your green general household waste bin.

What else can I do to help keep Pitstone clear of dog waste?

Please report all incidents of dog fouling on our footpaths, particularly between Glebe Close and Brookmead school, to the Aylesbury Vale District Council dog warden service on 01296 585605 / e-mail envhealth@aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk and to PCSO Jackie Dodson on 101. AVDC can implement more frequent cleansing visits or patrols by the dog warden if they are aware of a large scale problem and Thames Valley Police has the power to enforce fines and prosecute.

If you witness someone allowing their dog to foul, please report them to both the AVDC dog warden service and PCSO J Dodson using the contact details above. Photographic evidence on your mobile phone would be very helpful in securing a prosecution.

Let's work together to prove that dog fouling in our public open spaces and on our footpaths will not be tolerated and culprits will be reported and fined.