

DOGS (FOULING OF LAND) ACT 1996

Whiteshute Ridge, Whiteshute Lane, Badger Farm and Olivers Battery have become a target for irresponsible dog owners over the last few weeks where dog mess has been left in public areas.

“Most owners clean up after their dogs these days,” explains Dave Griffiths, Winchester City Council’s Senior Animal Welfare Officer, “but, to catch those who don’t, we need the help of members of the public”.

How you can help

Offenders need to be identified. Should you witness an owner or dog walker failing to clean up after their dog in an area to which the general public has access and, especially if you know the offender’s address, please report the incident to the Council, following which appropriate action will be taken.

We would ask you to state that you saw the dog defecate on public land and that the owner left the land without clearing up, give a description of the dog and the person walking the dog, where that person lives if you know; give the exact time and date that the offence occurred and the exact location. A car registration sometimes helps if you see it.

If you do not know where the owner lives, please give us a good description of the dog and owner.

Where a dog is loose without an owner or keeper present, fouling is still an offence if the owner can be traced.

Commercial dog walkers are responsible for cleaning up after all dogs that are in their care.

The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996

The Act applies to all areas to which the general public have access with the exception of agricultural land, commercial woodland, marshland, moors, heath, rural common land and carriageways with a speed limit over 40mph. Privately owned land is included if the general public have access to the land but private gardens and drives are not included.

Remember that leaving a bag of dog faeces on public land or hung on trees/fences is not complying with the law. It must be placed in an appropriate bin or taken home and disposed of there.

Offenders caught by the Animal Welfare Team may be issued with a fixed penalty fine or prosecuted directly, the maximum penalty for an offence being £1000.

Guide dog owners are exempt from the law.

Contact

Please don’t hesitate to call if you require any more information about the legislation.

We are happy to spread the word about responsible dog ownership by giving free talks to kids in schools. Year 5 or 6 kids are ideal for us but we are happy to talk to any age group.

You can contact us on 01962 848097 during office hours, or Email ehhealth@winchester.gov.uk. You can also find some information on our website; <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/environment/nuisance/dogs>