



# Safer Stratford

*Tackling dog fouling and promoting responsible dog ownership within the Stratford-on-Avon District...*

**DID YOU KNOW** One of the biggest environmental issues for residents in the district is dog fouling? It's time to take action and clamp down on culprits...

**THE LAW** Failure to clean up after your dog is a criminal offence and could result in a £75 on-the-spot Fixed Penalty Notice. Non-payment could lead to a court fine of £1,000. There is no defence to claim ignorance of your dog's actions.

Only registered blind owners of guide dogs are exempt.

The aim of the **SAFER STRATFORD** campaign is to raise awareness of the risks to public health and the environment. Dog faeces carry harmful infections, the most widely known being Toxocariasis. This potentially serious infection is usually transmitted via hands, but can also be spread through the dogs themselves, along with inanimate objects such as pushchair wheels and soles of shoes.

**TOXOCARIASIS** is mainly found in children between the age of 18 months and five years and can cause aches, dizziness, nausea, asthma and epileptic fits. Toxocariasis can even trigger blindness. There are about 120 recorded cases per year within the UK, very few of which are serious. Nevertheless, just one case is one case too many and is easily preventable.

There is a **SIMPLE SOLUTION**. Dog mess only contaminates the soil when left on the ground for around 2-3 weeks, as this is when the Toxocara eggs mature and become infectious. By 'scooping the poop' immediately, the threat of Toxocariasis is eliminated. Sadly, a number of dog-owners in the district let us all down.

**DOG FOULING STINKS!** Not only is it a health hazard, but dog mess is an eyesore and a blight on our local environment. Footpaths, school playing fields, parks and other recreational areas are all compromised.

As part of the campaign, targeted **PATROLS** will be carried out across the district. Please leave only pawprints! Obey the law and pick that dog poo off the floor!

By following these three **SIMPLE STEPS** we can work together to turn the tide on dog fouling...

**1**

*Where possible, set aside a designated area within your garden for your dog to use before you go out*

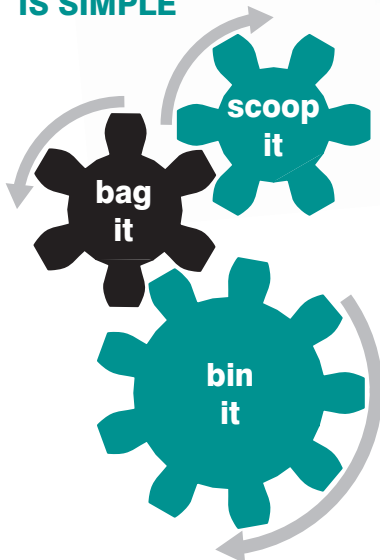
**2**

*Carry disposable bags and avoid places where children play*

**3**


*Worm your dog at least every six months*

## THE MESSAGE IS SIMPLE



## FOR MORE INFORMATION AND ADVICE PLEASE CONTACT

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**Dog Warden**

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