

Public Space Protection Order



Dog Control



The majority of dog walkers are responsible and do pick up after their pets, however, a small number of people choose to ignore the rules.

The Public Space Protection Order means that irresponsible dog owners risk a **£100 fixed penalty notice (FPN)** and potential **prosecution**.

The PSPO covers:



Failure to pick up your dog's poo.



Failure to carry a poop bag or other means to clean up after your dog.



Failure to keep your dog out of fenced off or enclosed children's playgrounds.



Report online

www.malvernhills.gov.uk/report-it

Or contact

streetscene@malvernhills.gov.uk

Telephone

01684 862151

Read the PSPO in full online at
www.malvernhills.gov.uk/dog-fouling



To help us tackle dog fouling and other dog control issues, we've introduced a Public Space Protection Order. This has created three new offences of:

- **Failing to pick up your dog's poo**
- **Failing to carry a poop bag or other means to clean up after your dog**
- **Failure to keep your dog out of a fenced off or enclosed children's play area**

This leaflet explains more about the changes and what you need to do to avoid a £100 fixed penalty notice (FPN) or court prosecution.

Tips

- **Use a plastic bag or carrier bag to pick up dog mess.**
- **It can be placed in any litter bin.**
- **If there isn't a bin available take it home and put it in your bin.**
- **Don't let your dog foul on a playing field or playground.**

You can help us crackdown on irresponsible dog owners by reporting offences to our Street Scene Team. When reporting an offence think about the following:

- **Do you know the dog owner?**
- **Do they usually walk the dog at a certain time?**
- **Where are they allowing the dog to foul?**
- **What does the dog and its owner look like?**
- **If the dog owner is using a vehicle, what is the registration number, make and model?**

Irresponsible dog owners who are caught not picking up after their dogs will be issued with a fixed penalty notice (FPN) of up to £100 and a £1,000 court fine if they fail to pay.

Remember, any bin found across the district can be used for dog poo. If a waste bin isn't available please take it home and put it in your household bin.

FAQs

What is a Public Space Protection Order?

It is a new power available under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

An order can be used to control certain activities in a specified area if two conditions are met:

- **The activities have had or are likely to have, a detrimental effect on those in the locality.**
- **The effect is, or is likely to be, persistent and continuing nature and is or is likely to be such as to make those activities unreasonable and that restrictions are justified.**

How will these new rules be enforced?

We have officers who carry out a range of enforcement and engagement work. They routinely patrol dog fouling hotspots, including early mornings, evenings and weekends.

When a dog's got to go, a dog's got to go! It's up to you as a responsible owner to clean it up.

Not only is dog poo unpleasant, it is a health hazard. Coming into contact with dog poo can risk contracting toxocariasis which can cause blindness.

The measures do not apply to assistance dogs used by the blind or by persons registered as disabled who lack the physical ability to comply with the requirements of the PSPO.

What about dog walkers who have poo bags but no intention of picking up after their dogs?

The main offence of failing to pick up after your dog will still be enforced. Officers will target dog fouling hotspots with the intention of catching the small minority of dog owners who are still failing to pick up after their dogs.



Why should I pick up after my dog?

As well as being smelly and unpleasant, dog poo is potentially harmful.

It is against the law not to clean up after your dog when they foul anywhere where the public has a right of access.

This includes:

- **Pavements**
- **Paths**
- **Playing fields**
- **Play grounds**
- **Grass Verges**
- **Gutters**
- **Roads**



Where does the requirement to pick up after my dog apply?

The PSPO states that a person in charge of the dog must -

'Remove dog faeces from any land to which is open to the air and to which the public have access'.

It means you must pick up your dog's poo outdoors in parks, open spaces, on the footpath, highway, bridleways or any other area which someone else could reasonably be expected to access. This excludes your own private front or back garden but includes outdoor communal areas in a flat complex.

What can I do to help?

Pick up after your dog. We would also urge dog owners to take a handful of bags with them on every walk - you never know if your dog might decide to go more than once.

Officers will take a common-sense approach to the new powers. The FPNs are not in place as a money-making scheme or to 'catch-out' responsible owners. Officers will generally approach people at the start of their walk - at the entrance to parks or in car parks at popular dog walking spots - when owners would be expected to have a supply of bags with them.

Officers will also be reasonable when considering any explanation offered as to why a person is not carrying bags.