

## East Lothian Dogwatch

One of the most common complaints received by East Lothian Council relates to the inexcusable behaviour of some people who fail to clean up after their dog when it fouls in a public place.

With little or no regard for the health and wellbeing of others, certain members of the community seem to think it acceptable to leave dog excrement lying around for others to come into contact with.

### Dog Fouling Facts & Figures

- It is estimated that dogs deposit 1000 tonnes of excrement in Britain every day
- If a dog isn't treated regularly to control intestinal worms, each deposit of excrement can carry over One Million Toxocara eggs
- Toxocara eggs become infectious and spread disease
- Children are most at risk from such diseases even leading to blindness in some cases

East Lothian Council have a major role to play in trying to prevent this antisocial practice and undertake

Warden Patrols, issue Fixed Penalty Notices to offenders and clean up, as much as possible behind irresponsible dog owners.

The Council can only do so much and warden patrols, even when carried out in plain clothes show that, when people think they're being watched, they behave like model citizens. Accordingly, the Council needs your help and has launched **Dogwatch** in your area to try and deal with this problem.

Dogwatch is based on the principals of Neighbourhood Watch and aims to give the community the tools, advice and support required to help them demonstrate zero tolerance towards offenders.

The initiative combines a whole series of components to help communities demonstrate their stand against dog fouling including:

- Posters and stickers to display in windows and cars
- On-line and telephone reporting of offences
- Hands on support and high visibility patrols involving Council Wardens and Community Police Officers

## Reporting an Offence

Dogwatch provides an easy to use telephone or on-line reporting system that enables you to safely and quickly report incidences of offenders failing to clean up after their dogs.

If you witness someone committing an offence simply contact East Lothian Council on **01875 824305** or **[www.eastlothian.gov.uk/dogwatch](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/dogwatch)** and follow the instructions. In reporting such offences your personal details will remain confidential and, if you are able to provide sufficient reliable information, our wardens may be able to issue a Fixed Penalty Fine or warning to an offender.

Information gathered through Dogwatch also enables East Lothian Council to monitor where the main problem areas are and target it's resources accordingly.

## Why Owners Should Clean Up After Their Dog

Cleaning up after a pet costs nothing and takes only a few seconds, not cleaning up can cost a whole lot more.

**Dog excrement carries disease**, the effects of which can last for months, lead to epilepsy and even permanent blindness.

**Dog excrement smells disgusting** and can easily get onto the clothes of your friends and family.

**It's the decent thing to do**, as a member of the Community, owners have a moral obligation to clean up after their dog.

**It's the law, if owners don't clean up after their dog they could be liable to an £80 fine or a criminal conviction**

### Useful Information for Dog Owners

Poop scoop bags are often available from public buildings and are cheap to buy from supermarkets. Alternatively, use recycled carrier bags or nappy sacks.

Dog owners should always carry a supply of bags, tying a few bags onto a dog's lead is an easy way to avoid being caught short.

Bagged and tied dog fouling can be disposed of in any street litterbin, it doesn't have to be a dedicated dog bin. If there's no litter bin nearby, take the bag home and dispose of it in the house wheelie bin.

Throwing filled bags into the nearest bush, simply means they will lie there for years and the owner could still be fined for doing this.

Think about the route of the walk. Dogs are creatures of habit so if the route is planned, you can ensure you walk past a bin when you normally need to deposit a filled bag.

A dog should be wormed regularly as a combination of good dog health and cleaning up after a dog will greatly reduce the risk of disease.

### Further Information

Dogwatch operates under the terms of the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 and full details of the act can be found by visiting [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk)



# HELP THE COUNCIL TO HELP YOU

