

dog's excreta should be cleared away as soon as possible from gardens or exercise runs to prevent the ground becoming contaminated with worm eggs. Likewise, dogs should be discouraged from fouling public places but if fouling occurs remember it is now a legal requirement that it is cleared up immediately by the owner or person in charge of the dog.

Tapeworms are commonly found in adult dogs and cats. The 'worm' actually consists of a number of whitish coloured segments which are joined together to form the tape, which can be up to three feet in length. The presence of the worm is usually recognised when the mature segments are shed from the rectum or with the faeces. Occasionally a cat or dog may vomit a complete worm. The individual segments can be up to one half of an inch in length, resembling a grain of rice and may be moving when they are shed.

WHAT TO DO

Worming is easy, effective and costs little. There are many worming preparations on the market which are available from your veterinary surgeon, pharmacist, pet shop or supermarket.

However, it is important to follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.

Treatment of the puppy and kitten should start at the age of two to three weeks but when they reach three months of age through to six months, dosing can take place every four weeks. From six months of age the adult dog and cat should be dosed four times a year with a round and tape worm preparation.

If in doubt about the regime, especially when dosing puppies and kittens, seek advice from your veterinary surgeon.

PLEASE REMEMBER!

We can all contribute to a cleaner, healthier environment by remembering these three simple rules.

1. Always clear up after your dog.
2. Always carry a poop-scoop with you for any unforeseen 'accidents'. Free poop-scoops will be available for a limited period at the Council's Information Centres at Civic Offices, Epping; Loughton Library, Traps Hill, Loughton and the Town Hall, Highbridge Street, Waltham Abbey. Alternatively you can obtain them from most supermarkets and pet shops. However, a plastic carrier bag works just as well, and the waste can be deposited in your own dustbin at home or any litter bin. **PLEASE REMEMBER ALWAYS TO DISPOSE OF THIS LITTER CAREFULLY.**
3. Finally, worm your dog regularly to prevent it becoming a health hazard to others, and to make life more comfortable for your pet. (If worms make you squirm, imagine what they would do to your dog).

For more information about the new Act or animal welfare contact Kevin Cope, Animal Welfare Officer on 01992 564153.



This leaflet has been produced by
Epping Forest District Council's
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DOG FOULING

BE A RESPONSIBLE OWNER AND CLEAR UP AFTER YOUR PET



Most of us at some time have come across dog fouling either on the public footpath or in our parks. It can be unpleasant, messy and a potential health risk.

Epping Forest District Council has therefore taken steps to ensure that dog owners act responsibly and 'clear up' after their dog.

A large number of owners already use poop-scoops and 'clear up' after their pet. However, for those owners that don't, you may not be aware that the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 is now in force.

The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act, 1996

The Act has now been adopted by Epping Forest District Council and comes into force on 1 March 1998.

Land to Which the Act Applies

Although there are some exceptions, the Act applies to land in the open air, including covered land which is open to the air on at least one side, and to which the public has access with or without payment.

The exceptions are:

Carriageways with a speed limit of more than 40mph and land running alongside them;

Land used for agriculture or for woodlands;

Land which is predominantly marshland, moor or heath; and

Rural common land.

It will now be an offence if your dog fouls and you do not clear up in the following areas:

All footpaths, pavements, flower beds and grass verges adjacent to carriageways where the speed limit is 40mph or less;

All footpaths, pavements and grass verges not adjacent to carriageways;

All pedestrianised areas;

All parks and children's play areas;

All sports fields;

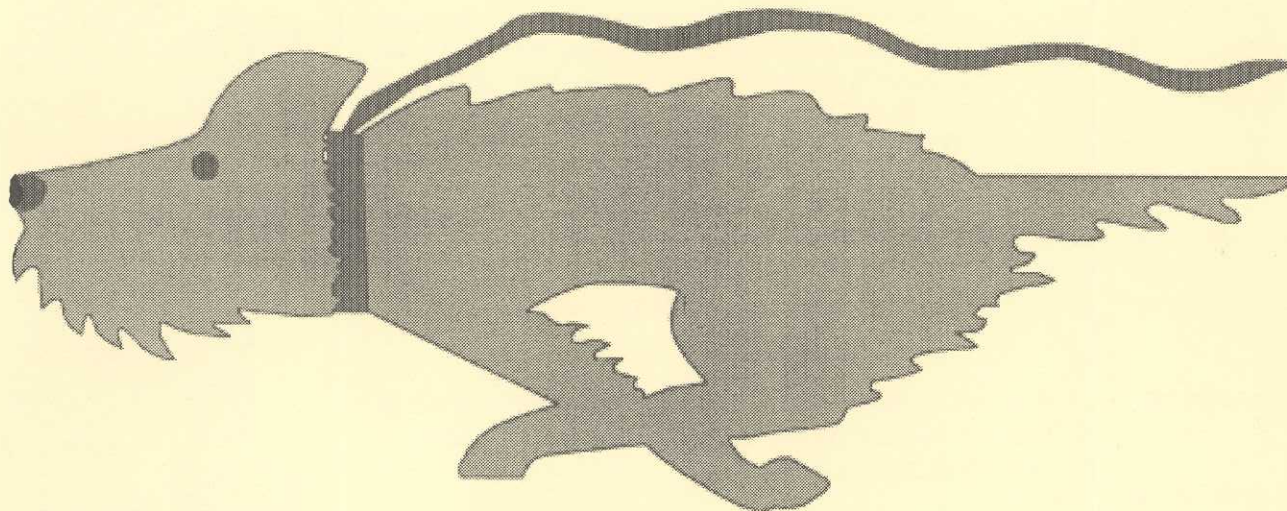
All greens, verges, flower beds and other open areas on any housing estate in the district;

All town greens;

All cemeteries; and

All parts of Lea Valley Regional Park in Epping Forest district, which are not in the exceptions given above;

but excluding all land in the ownership of the Conservators of Epping Forest.



General Exceptions

There will be exceptions to the new Act when a dog owner failing to clear up after their pet will not be committing an offence. These are in the following circumstances:

If that person has reasonable excuse for failing to do so

If the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented to them failing to do so

If the person in charge of the dog is registered as blind.

YOUR DOG AND WORMS

As well as clearing up after your dog when in a public place, another way to be a responsible pet owner is to worm your dog regularly.

Many owners worry about the possibility of their pet suffering from worms. Over the years a great deal of superstition and mythology has built up regarding the 'supposed' symptoms caused by worms, not to mention the weird and horrific folk remedies. There is really no need for this excessive alarm. Firstly, worms do not cause as many problems as people think and secondly, with modern wormers they can be quite safely eliminated without causing any distress to the animal.

All dogs and cats at some time in their lives have worms - usually during their puppy or kittenhood and at this time the owner should always be on guard and look for symptoms such as sickness and diarrhoea. However, whilst worms can cause slight illness, remember that a quite healthy pet can pass, or vomit, worms. It is for this reason that adult dogs and cats which may show no signs of ill health will still need regular worming.

The worms found in dogs and cats in Britain fall into two main categories - roundworms and tapeworms.

There are several species of **roundworms** that affect dogs but the most important is a worm called **Toxocara canis**. These worms can be up to seven inches in length and they have round bodies - rather similar to a tiny earthworm. They are of a whitish or pinkish brown colour.

Although the roundworm cannot complete its life cycle in humans, ingested eggs on **very rare occasions** can cause serious conditions in children. It is therefore of the greatest importance to see that puppies are kept free from worms, and that a good standard of hygiene is maintained - the