

## Responsible Dog Ownership

The vast majority of dog owners in Leeds are responsible, clean up after their dogs and keep them under proper control. There are a minority of irresponsible dog owners that create significant problems.

Leeds City Council have a range of powers to take action to deal with irresponsible dog owners. These are known as the Dog Control Orders.

## The Orders are as follows:

### 1. Dog Fouling

Failure to clear up after a dog is an offence and you will be fined or prosecuted.

This Order applies to any land within the area administered by the council which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access either with or without payment.

### 2. Keeping Dogs On Leads At All Times

All dogs must be kept under control at all times to minimise the risk of accidents. An Order is now in place requiring that on certain specified land dogs should be on a lead at all times. This Order applies to all footpaths and verges adjacent to carriageways within the Leeds City Council district. This is to prevent dogs running into the road which can cause traffic accidents.

The Order also applies to cemeteries, crematoria and some specialist or ornamental gardens. This is because dogs can cause considerable anguish to visitors at an already distressing time, especially if creating a disturbance or fouling.



### 3. The Dogs On Leads by Direction

An authorised officer can require you to put and keep a dog on a lead if restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent a nuisance or behaviour by the dog likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to any other person or animal.



### 4. Dog Exclusion Areas

Dogs are excluded from children's play areas, remembrance gardens, some wildlife gardens and many school grounds (where the school has asked to be included). The Order is in place to prevent a dog causing damage or disturbance even when under close control.

### 5. Maximum Number Of Dogs To Be Walked At A Given Time

At any one time an individual is not permitted to walk more than four dogs. However professional dog walkers, with the appropriate insurance, can walk up to six dogs.

Professional dog walkers are still subject to all of the Orders that are in place and should any number of dogs be out of control or causing a nuisance, prosecution would be sought regardless of professional status.

### Land Covered By The Dog Orders

This applies to any land within the Leeds area which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access either with or without payment.

## The Penalty

Failure to comply with any of the Orders is an offence for which you may be prosecuted with a maximum fine of £1,000.

Alternatively a Fixed Penalty Notice of £75 may be given.

Please be aware that offences listed do not apply to registered blind persons or to persons who rely on an assistance dog trained by Dogs for the Disabled, support dogs or Canine Partners for Independence with a disability affecting mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects.

If you have any questions about the information in this leaflet or would like professional advice please contact

Leeds City Council Corporate Call Centre  
0113 222 4406

or email  
[environmental.action@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.action@leeds.gov.uk)





## Information on responsible dog ownership and dog fouling

### The Problem:

Dog faeces is dirty, unsightly and a nuisance. In addition it has serious health implications especially for children and pregnant women. It can spread diseases which can cause a variety of illnesses from stomach upsets to blindness.

Dog fouling causes a major problem to the environment across the city. The clean up costs to the council run into thousands of pounds each month as they have to employ extra resources to collect and dispose of such waste. As a result, Leeds City Council takes a zero tolerance approach to dog fouling offences.

### The offence:

It is an offence for a person who is in charge of a dog to allow it to foul on land which is open to the air and fail to remove the faeces immediately. Being unaware of the fouling, whether by reason of not being in the area or otherwise, or not having a device for or suitable means of removing the faeces is not a reasonable excuse for failing to remove it.



### The penalties:

Authorised officers of the council issue Fixed Penalty Notices of £75 as an alternative to prosecution to anyone who commits an offence. Failure to pay will result in prosecution in the Magistrates' Court where the maximum fine for the offence is £1,000.

### The advice:

- Always ensure that whoever is walking your dog takes plastic bags/nappy sacks or poo bags with them and is prepared to pick up after the dog. It is not a defence to say that you did not have any bags with you at the time.
- It may be advisable not to allow young children to walk the dog unsupervised, due to the health implications of dog faeces but also to help keep the dog under proper control and protect the child in the event of any dangerous dog incidents.
- Do not let your dog roam out of your sight in case it should foul and you fail to notice it. A fixed penalty notice could still be issued in these circumstances.
- Provided that you have contained the waste. You can place the faeces in any public litter bin or take it home with you to put it in your own bin.
- Dog wardens carry out regular patrols in your area and will issue fixed penalty notices to anyone seen committing an offence.
- Any incidents of dog fouling or other service requests for the dog wardens can be reported via the council's contact centre on **0113 222 4406** or by email to [environmental.action@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.action@leeds.gov.uk)