

DOG FOULING

Dog fouling is a major concern to many people, not just because of the mess it causes, but because it can be a health risk. Dogs may deposit roundworm eggs (toxocara canis) in their faeces, which become infectious after about 3 weeks, and can remain so for up to 2 years.

Anyone, but particularly children playing near to the ground, can run the risk of picking up and swallowing the eggs. The eggs then hatch in the intestine, burrow through the intestine wall into the blood stream and pass into the body.

Possible symptoms of toxocaral infection range from aches, dizziness and nausea to asthma and pneumonia, but as these symptoms can all be caused by other things, infections often go undiagnosed. In the UK there are around 100 cases of toxocariasis diagnosed each year.

In rare cases eye disease and loss of vision can be caused when the toxocara larva passes into the eye or epilepsy from a brain infection

ref:- <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/environment/dog-fouling/healthrisks/health-risks-dog-fouling-dangers-and-solutions.aspx>

Local authorities and Gwent Police are empowered to issue fixed penalty notices and owners failing to pick up their pet's excrement face a £75 on the spot fine. If the person refuses to pay, and the case is taken to court, the offender may be fined up to £1,000.

Dog owners failing to pick up can be easily reported to the council via:

www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/home/streets-parking-and-transport/recycling-and-waste/dogfouling/