

of Dogs Ordinance (1992) specifies that dogs are prohibited from children's play areas such as those at Saumarez Park as well as other specified public grounds such as La Vallette Bathing Pools.

- Do not let your dog off lead if they are likely to run out of sight. To be sure you pick up after your dog keep it on a lead until it has had a poo. This is especially important in the winter months when the darker mornings and evenings make it more difficult to keep close watch on your dog.

### Bag It and Bin It

A poo bag is very similar to a nappy sack. It is a small plastic bag with two handles at the top. A knot can be tied in the handles to seal them closed. The filled bag should either be carried home for safe disposal via the refuse bin or dog loo, or disposed of in any of the public waste disposal bins, provided across the Island.

Alternatively use a 'poop scoop' which is a very simple plastic claw device that is used in conjunction with 'poop bags'.

**Pregnant women and individuals with impaired immunity should take extra precautions when cleaning up the faeces by wearing disposable gloves available from chemists.**

**Restrictions** Between 1<sup>st</sup> May and 30<sup>th</sup> September dogs are **banned from the following beaches:** Fermain; Petit Bot; L'Eree; Northern end of Vazon; Port Soif; Cobo; L'Ancrese; Pembroke. + Shell Beach; Belvoir Bay; Fisherman's Beach; The area of beach from in front of the White House Hotel to the Herm Harbour Jetty .

Dogs are **prohibited from the following areas** at all times:

- **Children playgrounds** Saumarez Park; Delancey Park; Beau Sejour Park; Cambridge Park; Les Amarreurs; Le Courtil St. Jacques, La Rue des Escaliers and Rue Jehannet, All playgrounds of States schools; The playgrounds of Saint Mary and Saint Michael School and Notre Dame du Rosaire School
- **The Bathing Pools at La Vallette**
- **Sports and playing fields (Unless on a lead and under supervision)** Delancey Park; Beau Sejour Park; Cambridge Park; Victoria Avenue; Saumarez Park; Vale Commons; Rovers Football Club, Port Soif; Les Brehauts playing fields; Osmond Priaulx Memorial playing fields; Sylvans playing fields; All playing fields owned by the States.

Owners are also respectfully asked to abide by the **voluntary ban of dogs at the Southern end of Vazon (Richmond)** which is in place all year round. This is to reduce disturbance to wading birds as several species are in decline.

### **Contacts:**

Environment Department: Tel: 717200  
(Open land: beaches, cliffs, parks & gardens)  
Guernsey Police: Tel: 725111  
(Enforcement)  
G.S.P.C.A.: Tel: 257261  
(General advice on animal welfare)

**KEEP GUERNSEY TIDY**



## **Dog Fouling - the facts**



One of the main causes of irritation to everyone – including many dog owners – is fouling in public places. Dog fouling is the most offensive type of litter on our streets. It is anti-social, unhygienic and is proven to be a health hazard. The faeces of a dog can transmit diseases to other animals and to humans, especially young children.

Everyone has to share the same recreational space and there is nothing worse than having to constantly look for dog poo to prevent you or your children stepping or even falling into it.

Obviously it is the dog that does the poop but it is unfair to blame the canine population; it is the responsibility of the dog owner to ensure that the dog's poop is cleaned up. Although there are a great number of owners that do clear it up, there are still some people who feel it is unhygienic or not something they should have to do. It is however a real health hazard to leave it where it lies - on pavements, in parks and playgrounds, the cliffs and coastal areas or even on the beach. It is also against the law.

- It is estimated that the dog population of the UK produces 900 tonnes of faeces every day.
- Over a ten-year lifetime, a dog can produce up to half a ton of faeces.

## The Law

**The Control of Dogs Ordinance (1992) applies to all public places and states that an offence is committed if a person in charge of a dog fails to clean up faeces immediately. It is no defence to claim ignorance of the dog's actions, the law, or not to have a device available to remove the dog faeces. Failure to comply with this law could result in a fixed penalty fine of £100 or prosecution.**

## Health Risks

All faeces contains bacteria that can cause stomach upsets if ingested. However, the greatest risk to public health from dog faeces is toxocariasis.

## Toxocariasis

Toxocariasis is an infection of the round-worm, spread via unwashed vegetables and **dog faeces**. Young children in particular are at risk due to their weaker immune systems and because they are more likely to expose themselves by ingesting the eggs. A puppy can pass as many as 15,000 eggs per gram of faeces, and they are a major source of environmental contamination.

Each *T. canis* female can lay up to 700 eggs a day. These are passed out when the dog defecates and can survive for up to three years in soil. After two to three weeks of warm weather the eggs develop into an embryo state, containing larva - this is when

they become infective to dogs and people. The larvae try to migrate through the human body as they would in a dog's, but the human body treats them as foreign material, which causes a reaction and tissue damage.

There are two types of toxocariasis: visceral larva migrans (VLM) and ocular larva migrans (OLM).

In VLM, the larvae reach the liver, causing inflammation and symptoms such as abdominal pain and pyrexia. Most people recover spontaneously.

OLM occurs when a migrating larva reaches the eye. It causes a granuloma to form on the retina, causing significant visual impairment and in severe cases even **blindness**.

There are about 12 new cases of OLM diagnosed annually in the UK.

## **Reduce the Risk – *Take Steps to Avoid Dog Poo***

- Pick up after your dog every time your dog makes a mess. Keep a packet of bags next to the dog's lead as a reminder to take them with you.
- Ensure you regularly worm your dog - every three to six months. Use a prescription wormer from a vet.
- Where possible, avoid taking dogs to areas where children play such as areas within public parks. The Control