

Appendix D Proposed Order Three

A person in charge of a dog in any public place within the Borough of Dacorum must have with them an appropriate means to pick up dog faeces deposited by that dog. The obligation is complied with if, after a request from an authorised officer, the person in charge of the dog produces an appropriate means to pick up dog faeces.

Q3. Do you agree or disagree with the proposed requirement that any person responsible for a dog must have with them an appropriate means to pick up dog faeces deposited by that dog within the areas shown on the map in Schedule 2?

Responses

Agree

- Should someone pick up a 'stray' or 'missing' dog, it is unfair to expect them to have the wherewithal to pick up after it. In most other cases I would agree that they should have the means to clear up.
- I absolutely agree with this being a dog owner picking up dog poo is essential. but it is also totally unacceptable that we have have to consistently worry about all rubbish in the parks and food waste that people leave after being in the park. I walk everyday and see more rubbish of all kinds (which children and dogs pick up and can be lethal) in dacorum than dog poo. Any responsible dog owner clears up after their dog. Responsible people pick up their rubbish. How do you deal with the 5% who dont give a S**T about anything that should be the consultation paper not this?????
- Agree - dog owners should always have the bags with them and they can then make a decision as to whether to bag it or stick and flick.
- I agree to some extent but Dacorum council have some responsibility too. there are not enough dog bins in the areas a lot have been removed. also the few that are around are always full and not emptied for a while which leaves waster hanging outside the bin. Also in some areas bags were provided.
- I do agree but do not agree that sanctions should be given as I always take a poo bag but what happens if one time I forget?
- I agree with question 3
- Same as previous question ie I agree that all dog walkers should go prepared but I disagree with the totality of the area.
- not sure this can work and could lead to disagreements that could get out of hand. what authority would the officer or member of the public have to search another>
- I agree again but sometimes my dogs 'go' more than expected. This is rare but does happen. I always feel guilty if they have diarrhoea - impossible to pick up!
- Yes strongly agree. Especially in this dry period. Dog excrement is not getting washed away.
- Agree - dog owners should always have the bags with them and they can then make a decision as to whether to bag it or stick and flick

Bag

- I agree as a dog owner I must clear up after my dog - and I do so and typically carry at least 2 bags. I think some leniency must apply to this 3rd point once I have walked a distance from my home on the extremely rare occasion - not to be too graphic - when my dog has an obviously irritated digestive system.

- In most cases yes I agree but if the dog had escaped your property and you rush to get the dog you don't automatically think to pick a bag so leniency should be applied in certain circumstances. A sensible application should be applied
- Yes I do agree except we can all run out of bags on a walk - a bit of appropriate judgement by the officer would be sensible
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- I do agree but do not agree that sanctions should be given as I always take a poo bag but what happens if one time I forget?
- What if the person has used up all their bags because they know they only need to take a couple of bags out with them?
- All responsible dog walkers try to have enough poo bags with them at all times, but there is the occasion when you run out unexpectedly. I have used leaves or tissues to pick up at those times. Just because you don't have a bag doesn't mean you won't pick up.
- How is the PSPO going to be policed? Are the police and council officers really going to stop anyone walking a dog and ask them to prove they have a bag to collect the dog faeces? What happens if I am returning from walking my dog, he has already done his business and I have used the poo bag I was carrying at the beginning of the walk and put it in the bin? I am a responsible dog owner and don't like seeing dog faeces on the ground I sometimes pick up other dogs faeces that is left on footpaths. But what difference is the PSPO actually going to make? What powers will it give Police and Council to really make a difference to this issue?
- Although as a responsible dog owner I try and always carry bags to clear up after my dog. There have been occasions when I have been distracted and fail to make sure I have bags in my pocket. Although I agree in principal to this statement it would be useful if there was also a supply of dog poo bags with the bins as in some areas
- It is possible to run out of bags whilst on a walk.
- People do forget things. Perhaps your authorised whoever could carry a few spare bags?
- It is not always possible to have a bag available. Yes you should endeavour to have a bag but if this is not possible alternate means to clear up should be allowed. No legal action should be made against those that do not apply
- I think that is a bit over the top in case they have just not realised, and have run out of bags
- In principle I agree but any dog can unexpectedly have multiple 'accidents' if its stomach is working unusually and you can go through two or three bags or more. Even a diligent owner may run out of bags.
- Yes I agree but there should also be some bags near the dog bin for those occasions where not enough bags have been taken out on walk or have dropped out of your pocket on the way
- I agree but it might be helpful if biodegradable pickup bags were available on the sides of dog waste bins as an incentive for owners to be more responsible.
- It is possible to forget or lose the bags the officer could always oblige.
- I have been out before now having changed handbags and not had dog bags on me. I waited five minutes for another dog owner to pass and I asked to use one of their bags. You are making dog owners feel like criminals
- What is appropriate means ? - I think this is too subjective - you could argue that any item of clothing could be used to pick up faeces. Also some bags might be suitable for

one size of dog but not another. Simply I think you would struggle to prosecute anyone on such a word as "appropriate".

- In theory this a great idea, however people can forget or lose the bags they brought with them, I don't think I would want to see people who have made a genuine mistake be punished. Hopefully a responsible dog owner will wait for another dog owner to come along and ask for a spare bag or come back with a bag.
- There are occasions where my dog has been ill and defecated numerous times whilst out. I will pick up what I can but may occasionally run out. Will ask other walkers for bags but sometimes this isn't feasible. This seemingly gives no discretion
- we have before looked after a friend's dog and have taken out 2 bags which were both used. If the dog had fouled again we wouldn't of had another bag so I'm not sure if I agree with this.
- Sometimes the poo bags will already have been used or they fall out of pockets and then what would happen?

I feel that that would be very unfair as dog owner can always come back to pick up the poo or ask another owner

- Definition of appropriate means required. I heard of feedback from a pilot in North of England where a dog owner without a poo bag when challenged took off a sock to pick up!
- What happens if you have already used a poo bag and run out?
- As an ex dog owner, I used to take my dog out for a walk and she never did a poo whilst out walking, however once she did and I did not have any bags on me. I think there can always be exceptional reasons why someone hasn't got a bag on them, so I think this is a bit unfair. I must add that although I was unable to pick up the poo immediately I ran home and went to get a bag and did it 10 minutes later.
- Sometime you can run out of bags due to your dog having a bad stomach or something
- I do not agree as the person may have already used the dog bag they have to pick up after the dog and therefore would not need another one. This rule seems unreasonable due to this
- It's easy to forget to bring a bag when your dog's leaping about like a lunatic all excited to go out. Again have officers carry bags in case someone forgets.
- Unreasonable to hold an owner non-compliant if they have used up all their bags earlier in the dog's walk. Also, the proposed penalties are not outlined.
- I think this proposal makes the assumption that the dog WILL poo and the owner will NOT pick it up and dispose of it. Just to add I always take bags out with my dogs.
- Again I don't have the option to agree and comment: I always carry bags with me but there have been occasions that the 2-3 I have with me have run out during the course of cleaning up after my dog. If I was stopped I could then be penalised for not having 'appropriate means to pick up dog faeces'. Please do not penalise responsible dog owners for the bad behaviour of a few.
- It maybe that they have used up the bags they took and the dog will no longer will foul
- However, occasionally your furry friend uses all the bags you have bought with you. Usually a fellow dog walker or a mum with a pram will provide you with a bag if asked. Why not have a supply of sponsored bags available near bins. Lots of boroughs now do this.
- Too difficult to monitor. What is 'an appropriate means to pick up dog faeces'? A small spade? A plastic bag? A dog owner could pick up the poo with a spade and sling it into someone's garden. We need a means of removal not picking up - and a definition of what this means. Then also heavy penalties for people who place their dog poo bag somewhere inappropriate rather than in a bin or taking it home.
- I agree but also as a dog owner I understand people run out. I have handed out many bags to people in the park.

- Only in parks and children's play areas around built up areas, not in the countryside where the stick and flick off public footpaths works well and avoids dog faeces being left in plastic bags hung on trees.
Most of the walkers in Ashridge and Ivinghoe have dogs - the stick and flick system which is signposted works well.
- I think this may prevent someone picking up just to prove they still have a bag

Faeces

- There are occasionally times when your dog is not well and produces more faeces and more times than you are prepared for. In these situations it would be wrong to penalise the responsible person.
- In case that the individual has run out of the appropriate means to pick up the faeces while out, the individual should be allowed to obtain the appropriate means to pick up the faeces retrospectively
- How is the PSPO going to be policed? Are the police and council officers really going to stop anyone walking a dog and ask them to prove they have a bag to collect the dog faeces? What happens if I am returning from walking my dog, he has already done his business and I have used the poo bag I was carrying at the beginning of the walk and put it in the bin? I am a responsible dog owner and don't like seeing dog faeces on the ground I sometimes pick up other dogs faeces that is left on footpaths. But what difference is the PSPO actually going to make? What powers will it give Police and Council to really make a difference to this issue?
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Other

- Refer to previous comment
- Can you please define what is appropriate as a hand is a means of clearing!
- Because such a requirement flies in the face of common sense. Will farmers one day be required to remove sheep and cattle dung from public walkways through their lands?
- But how are you going to enforce it
- What is an appropriate means. This needs to be defined.
- Make sure you implement new laws with a fine and community service IE clearing up and monitor.
Don't just bring new law in.

- No, this should not apply where the dogs are in wooded areas, behind bushes etc, ONLY on paths / grasses area.
As ever, you have gone over the top, try again.
- Can you put up signs around the land and farms for all dogs to be kept on leads as all over we have dog poo and they are left to run riot even with sheep in fields
- Try putting your effort into repairing our paths and walk ways rather than dreaming up ideas of how to persecute people.
- I always step on dog's fouls in the streets and parks. It is very disgusting
- I always carry sacks but just occasionally I find I have lost them or used them up. Quite often a fellow dog walker asks to 'borrow' one from me.
- As per above, requirements for NT land should be standardised. But for other areas then yes, owners should have appropriate means for removal. Perhaps allow for occasional errors to be made, when simply forgotten rather than persistent or intentional non compliance.
- This is picking on dog owners. I walk a dog daily and frankly there is not a problem with Dog poo been left and not picked up.
This political decision to gain a few votes from the none dog owners is transparent and feeble.
Who will enforce this, there are no dog wardens or constables in the area.
A blatant vote winner.
- But it is possible to forget occasionally - we are all human
- unsure how this is enforceable
- This would require a person in charge of a dog to prove he/she had a suitable receptacle with them whether or not the dog was defaecating.
If the person says yes they have a receptacle will they have to prove it? If so, this is an infringement of personal freedom. What is 'appropriate means'? Difficult or impossible to prove (or define). Would the production of a handkerchief or cigarette packet be adequate?
To take enforcement further than actual canine defaecation without clearing it up is just silly and could lead to contentious attempts to enforce.
- Subjective and open to interpretation so is unenforcable.