

Dog Droppings

do the right thing...



The problem with dog poo

Dog droppings pose environmental and health risks. The number of dogs in our shire increases every year and this can unfortunately result in an increase in the amount of dog droppings in public areas such as parks, footpaths and beaches.

Dog droppings contain nutrients and can be washed through the stormwater system into natural waterways including lakes, rivers and beaches. Excess nutrients in our natural waterways can affect aquatic and other wildlife. They encourage algae blooms that can lead to reduced oxygen levels in our waterways.

Health Risks

Many diseases can be passed from animals to humans, even if the animal is showing no signs of ill health. Some of these diseases may be spread by direct or indirect contact with animal faeces.

When dog faeces are left in public places people may inadvertently come into direct contact with it or it may be washed into waterways following rain bringing swimmers and other recreational water users into contact with the disease agents contained within it.

The main types of diseases that people can pick up from dogs and their faeces include salmonella, E coli, campylobacter, giardia, cryptosporidium, roundworm and ringworm.

How to clean up after your dog

Cleaning up after your dog is a part of being a responsible pet owner.

- Ballina Council requires dog owners to remove and dispose of their dog's droppings when in public places. Dog owners can be fined for not complying with this requirement
- cleaning up after your dog is easy. You can use plastic or biodegradable bags, trowels or pooper scoopers. Personal bag carriers are available that attach to your dog's leash to store plastic bags during walks
- keep your bags/pouches/pooper scoop products with your leash, as a reminder to take them with you
- if using the plastic bag method for cleaning up, simply put your hand inside the bag, pick up the dog dropping, turn the bag inside out and then seal. Carry it until you get to a suitable disposal site. Wash your hands as soon as practical afterwards
- dispose of your bags in Council bins or your bin at home (not recycling bins). Dog droppings can also be composted or worm farmed without the plastic bag.

In NSW the Companion Animals Act makes it an offence to not pick up dog faeces in a public place with a fine of \$275 applicable.

Further Information

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