The Kennel Club strongly promotes responsible dog ownership, and believes that dog owners should always pick up after their dogs wherever they are, including fields and woods in the wider countryside, and especially where farm animals graze to reduce the risk of passing neospora and sarcocystosis to cattle and sheep respectively.

Dog owners should be picking up after their dog regardless of whether they are in an urban park or wider countryside. The two main exceptions to this are when there is a clear indication from the landowner to the contrary, or if the dog walker is physically unable to comply due to a disability.

Alongside using legal routes, we would encourage local authorities to employ proactive measures to help promote responsible dog ownership throughout the local area. For example: increasing the number of bins available for dog owners to use; relocating existing bins to more appropriate locations; communicating to local dog owners that bagged dog poo can be disposed of in normal litter bins; running responsible ownership and training events; or using poster campaigns to encourage dog owners to pick up after their dog.

Examples of successful anti-dog fouling campaigns include:

1) Jersey saw fouling incidents at some ‘hotspots’ reduce by 88% using their proud to pick up campaign. The results of their campaign are highlighted [here](#) and campaign resources can be viewed [here](#).

2) Keep Britain Tidy (England) have run a 'we're watching you' poster campaign with a number of local authorities, some reporting fouling falling by up to 91%, please [click here](#) for further information.

3) West Suffolk Council recently ran a dog fouling pilot in Wickhambrook which used posters alongside bag dispensers and saw over 50% reduction in their fouling - for further information please [click here](#).

Advantages of engaging positively with the dog owning community

Many local authorities have established ‘Green Dog Walkers’ schemes to reduce levels of dog fouling. The schemes operate by encouraging local dog walkers to act as voluntary ambassadors who encourage responsible behaviour from other dog walkers. They wear green armbands to identify themselves as someone who can provide a dog poo bag to those caught short for example. For further information please [click here](#).
Dog walkers can also be engaged to tackle wider anti-social behaviour - so called 'Paws on Patrol' schemes make use of dog walkers to act as additional eyes and ears on the ground to reduce levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. For further information please click here.

**Toxocariasis**

The Kennel Club often sees reference to toxocariasis in relation to restrictions on dog walkers. Toxocariasis is a rare infection caused by roundworm parasites. Human illness is caused by ingestion of infected dog, cat or fox faeces.

However, it is illogical to make risk of toxocariasis alone a justification for a PSPO. This is because it is a very rare infection with an average number of confirmed cases in the UK at around 4.5 per year (based on UK government data). To put this into context, on average, each year, for every one confirmed case of toxocariasis, there are five fatalities as a result of people falling out of bed, and ten people are struck by lightning in the UK. It is also important to note that the majority of toxocariasis infections result in either no noticeable or minor symptoms, with no lasting effects.

We have created a FAQ document on toxocariasis which can be downloaded here.

**Potential for unfair PSPOs on dog fouling**

Whilst the Kennel Club supports proactive efforts on behalf of local authorities to encourage responsible dog ownership and to ensure that those who are not picking up after their dogs are penalised, this has to be fair and proportionate and we would not like to see responsible dog owners penalised unfairly. Please see briefings on means to pick up and DNA registers with regards to dog fouling.

More information on measures to deal with dog fouling can be found in our report, *KC Dog Report ‘Out of Order: The Impact of Access Restrictions on Dogs and their Owners*