



19th February 2018

Dog Mess – Bag it and Bin it!

Marlborough Town Council and Drove Veterinary Hospital have joined forces in a campaign to urge people to clear up after their dogs. This is a problem that affects all of our towns and villages and staff at Drove Vets have designed a great, eye catching poster to encourage dog walkers to lead the way in tidying up pavements and open spaces in Marlborough.

The vast majority of dog owners are responsible and bag and bin dog mess and these new posters will encourage everyone to follow their example. They will be displayed in all Town Council-owned open spaces as a reminder that there is a responsibility to clear up after dogs and keep our green spaces and paths clear for everyone to enjoy.

Drove Vets have worked with other councils with similar campaigns to help clean up streets and parks in Swindon and Wiltshire. Vets and staff work hard to spread the word about the legal and health implications of dog fouling with useful information about the diseases both humans and dogs can catch from dog faeces, even from healthy pets. Legally, it is an offence not to remove and dispose of dog mess in a public place and breaches carry fixed fines of £75 rising to £1,000 for serious offenders.

Town Mayor, Councillor Mervyn Hall said: "We are really pleased to be working with Drove Veterinary Hospital on this campaign. It's a very real problem in Marlborough and all of our open spaces are plagued with what can only be described as discourteous and anti-social behaviour. Dog mess can be bagged and put into any bin for collection. Instead we see dog mess everywhere, even hanging in bags on branches of trees. Let's try to sort it out."

Emma Coles, a vet practising at Drove Veterinary Hospital said: "With 8 million dogs owned in the UK, it is fair to say that we are still a nation of dog lovers, but with ownership comes responsibility, and a mounting issue for many people is the offensive mess left in public places. Let's all act responsibly so we can all enjoy our fantastic local environment."

A useful handout about the health and legal implications of dog fouling, written by Emma Coles, is available to download at www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk



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