



**PORTFOLIO AREA: ENVIRONMENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND
TRANSPORT**

Date of Meeting: 1st September 2003

Public

Key Decision: No

Recorded in Forward Plan: No

Inside Policy Framework

Title: PETITION RE - LACK OF BINS FOR DISPOSAL OF DOG
WASTE

Report of: Head of Environmental Protection Services

Report reference: EPS 57/03

Summary: The report addresses concerns identified in a petition received regarding a lack of facilities for the disposal of dog waste.

Recommendations: Members are requested to note the report and consider the proposed financial implications as part of the Council's budget deliberations.

Contact Officer: Richard Speirs

Ext: 7325

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

- 1.1 The petitioners refer to the lack of facilities for the disposal of dog waste primarily in the Belah area. This is a frequently expressed concern from residents in other areas of the City and relates to the lack of a specific budget not only for new bins but also for the repair and renewal of existing bins. Historically litter bins were provided through savings incurred in the operation of the street cleaning contract however as has already been reported to Member's of Executive at their meeting of 4th August (report EPS 50/03), additional demands on the budget have effectively removed the former surplus. The letters accompanying the petition also make reference to the lack of adequate disposal facilities in parkland areas at Belah and Kingmoor. All such areas come under the control of the Head of Leisure and Community Development where similar budget restrictions also prevent both the installation of adequate bins and the cost of their subsequent emptying.
- 1.2 Report EPS 50/03 identified that an annual budget of around £20,000 would provide for around 45 to 50 new litter bins per year together with their subsequent emptying costs. This would allow for the replacement of damaged and vandalised bins as well as a programme for new locations and the renewal of ageing litter bins.
- 1.3 The Council's Dog Fouling Enforcement Officers have succeeded in raising awareness of the anti social and health effects of failing to clear up after dogs. The majority of responsible dog owners now clear up after their pets however the shortage of litter bins in many areas is the subject of frequent complaint. Although specific dog waste bins are frequently mentioned there are negligible, if any, health risks associated with the disposal of bagged dog waste in ordinary litter bins. Additionally, traditional litter bins will assist in minimising litter problems more effectively than dog waste bins and householders are more likely to accept a litter bin outside their property than a noticeable dog waste bin.

2. CONSULTATION

- 2.1 Consultation to Date. Nil
- 2.2 Consultation proposed. Nil

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to note the report and consider the proposed financial implications as part of the Council's budget deliberations.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To address the concerns of the petitioners and other residents and enable consideration of a permanent budget for litter bins.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources – Nil
- Financial – Additional funding, as identified in the report will need to be considered as part of the Council's budget considerations for 2004/05.
- Legal – Under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 the local authority is not obliged to provide specific dog waste bins.
- Corporate – Nil
- Risk Management – Nil
- Equality Issues – Nil
- Environmental – An adequate provision of litter bins will have widespread environmental benefits.
- Crime and Disorder – Nil



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Peter Stybelski
Town Clerk & Chief Executive
Civic Centre
CARLISLE
CA3 8QS

LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICE	
FILE	
- 6 AUG 2003	
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4 August 2003

Dear Peter

I have enclosed correspondence and a petition regarding the lack of bins for the disposal of dog waste.

I have a great deal of sympathy with the sentiment expressed and I would hope that the Council feels able to take positive steps to remedy this lack of provision.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this issue to be discussed by the appropriate body, with a recommendation that the necessary bins be provided for what is technically clinical waste.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

ERIC MARTLEW MP
Member of Parliament for Carlisle

Enc



BRATS

BELAH RESIDENTS
AND
TENANTS SOCIETY

FAO
Mr Eric Martlew MP
3 Chatsworth Square
Carlisle
CA1 1HB

23/07/03

Dear Eric

Following our June meeting of the Belah Residents and Tenants Society there were concerns voiced about the lack of bins to dispose of dog waste and a lack of bins on the estate.

Please find enclosed a copy of the letter that was sent to Julie Parton of Environmental Services.

There is also enclosed a petition organised by Sandra Sharkey. She was fined for allowing her dog to foul and the outcome of the offence has highlighted the lack of disposal bins.

What the main consensus is that people are picking up their dogs' waste, but then they are walking around with a bag of waste looking for a bin to put it in. One of the areas for concern is Kingmoor Woods as there does not appear to be any bins so people are collecting the waste then throwing it into streams or over hedgerows making it more of a concern.

I have included a copy of literature that Mrs Sharkey forwarded to me relative to health concerns.

I don't know if you can help in this matter but I was asked to pass in onto you for your information and attention.

On another matter we now have a consultant on board regarding the new community centre, Ewan Cartwright, and he is feeding back to the development committee on a regular basis and things are looking more positive for the future.

Regards.

~~Yours sincerely~~

Chairman BRATS

Environmental Services
Carlisle City Council
Civic Centre
Carlisle
CA3 8QG

5th June 03

Dear

Following our residents meeting last night there was a heated debate regarding the subject of dog waste and it's disposal with in the estate.

One of the real issues was the lack of proper disposal bins for the collected waste products.

There was a concern that people have been told to use the normal waste bins, there was a point raised that this could be a real health issue if small children were to also put litter into the same bins?

Are there not clinical waste bins for dog waste?

If there are who provides them?

Who do we contact to request more suitable bins for this waste product and there siting. There are no bins on the parkland opposite the Enterprise public house.

People are picking up as requested by law but there needs to be proper disposal units that are not a health issue to the public and the people collecting the waste. Some people may be walking around with the waste in bags looking for suitable ways to dispose of it and putting themselves in a situation which could cause a health problem.

A question that was also asked was, is the fine money collected put back into the running costs of the scheme or does it go to central funds?

Our next meeting is Wednesday 2nd July 2003 at 8pm and I hope to be able to report back to the group your response.

Yours truly,

(Chair BRATS)

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- transfer of larvae from the bitch to her pups as they feed on her milk;
- a nursing bitch may be re-infected by her own pups while cleaning them;
- roundworm eggs may be accidentally picked up by dogs (and other animals, including man) from the environment;
- an adult dog may eat mice which could be harbouring roundworm larvae.

As you can see, these worms are nothing if not determined, and they have developed a number of ways to pass from one dog to another (and so, of course, to survive). Roundworm eggs are very resilient and can potentially survive for several years in the environment (in parks and gardens, for example), acting as a reservoir of infection for other dogs and children alike. In addition, roundworms can shed lots of eggs to increase their chances of successfully infecting another dog: a single female worm can produce over 84,000 eggs per day!!

Puppies with a heavy worm burden may show such signs as ill thrift, poor coat, vomiting with diarrhoea or constipation, and a pot-bellied appearance. Furthermore, pups which were infected before birth may develop pneumonia as the larvae pass through the lungs, and dogs with large numbers of worms may also experience a blocked gut.

As indicated above, people (especially young children) may become infected with roundworm larvae and this can give rise to eye damage. Fortunately, such episodes are rare but with measures such as routine deworming and safe disposal of dog faeces, we can try to make the problem even more uncommon.

Tapeworms

Tapeworms are the other major group of parasitic worms which can infect our pets. They attach themselves to the wall of the small intestine and can range in size from only a few millimetres in length, up to a massive 5 metres long!

Unlike roundworms, they cannot be passed directly from one cat or dog to another, but have to develop in another animal first (a so-called "intermediate host").

Take the flea tapeworm (*Dipylidium caninum*) for instance. This is commonly found in both cats and dogs. The tapeworm larvae are carried by fleas, which pets swallow while grooming, and once in the dog's gut, the larvae develop into adult tapeworms. On reaching maturity (in as little as three weeks) they start to shed egg-filled segments, which may be passed with the dog's faeces or separately. You can sometimes tell when a dog has tapeworms as you may actually see small white segments wriggle out of the dog's bottom (imagine that!). Failing that, these segments may be seen either sticking to the fur near the dog's

bottom, or else you'll notice them on the settee etc., where the dog was lying. These segments may wriggle and move, and look a bit like long-grain rice!

Once in the environment (ie, your dog's bedding, carpets, etc.) the segments release their tiny eggs, which are eaten by flea larvae. The worm develops inside the flea as it matures and if the flea is swallowed by a cat or dog, the whole lifecycle begins again.

Other tapeworms are transmitted to dogs when they eat rabbits or small rodents, are given unsterilised pet food, or scavenge sheep carcasses, which contain tapeworm larvae.

At this stage, you might be thinking that with such a complicated lifecycle, tapeworms should be as common as dinosaurs but their continuing presence shows just how successful they are!

Worms, your dog and the vet

It is pretty safe to say that, at some stage during its life, your dog will get worms. That said, it is also common sense to arrange to treat your dog on a regular basis, whether or not there are any obvious signs of worms. Effective wormers are available from your veterinary surgeon, and these products have been shown to be highly effective against the intestinal worms which your dog can get. Due to the ease with which dogs can become infected, it makes good sense to use them to treat your pet and to do so, every three months.

Nowadays there are a variety of different worm products available. Some act against roundworms only; others only remove tapeworms, and a third group of products is effective against both round- and tapeworms. These "all-in-one" tablets are very effective and can either be given whole, or crushed in food.

While worming will get rid of any worms, which may be present in your dog's intestine at the time of treatment, it will not prevent re-infection. It is therefore important to worm your dog regularly (every three months or as recommended by your vet), especially if it eats rabbits or small rodents, is fed raw offal or unsterilised pet food, has access to sheep carcasses or has had fleas. In this way you can help to keep your dog free from worms, and from the health problems they may cause to your pet (and potentially your family).


It is also advisable to clean up after your dog when it goes to the toilet as this will reduce the contamination of the environment with worm eggs, and reduce the risk of either dogs or people becoming infected.

With some simple steps, we can help to keep our pets worm-free, reduce contamination of the environment, and make worms as scarce as dinosaurs!

For further information visit www.noworm.co.uk
For all your pet information needs visit www.vetulike.co.uk

This information is of a general nature only. If you have any questions, please ask your vet.

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Care **4** Cats and Worms

Frankly, it's not always easy to tell when a cat has worms. In severe cases, the signs are obvious enough, but in the case of a mild infection, your cat may still look healthy, and you may remain in blissful ignorance.

What's more, the worm is no respecter of class or pedigree: it will infect the most pampered Persian as readily as a farmyard moggie!

There are two basic types of intestinal worms, which infect cats in this country: roundworms and tapeworms. Roundworms resemble strands of spaghetti, and may grow up to 10cms in length. Tapeworms look like strings of rather flattened rice grains and can grow up to 60cms in length.

In severe cases, they may cause vomiting with diarrhoea or constipation, leading to loss of weight and condition. In addition, they may weaken your cat's immune system, making it more susceptible to infection. Heavy burdens of roundworms may even give rise to a blocked gut.

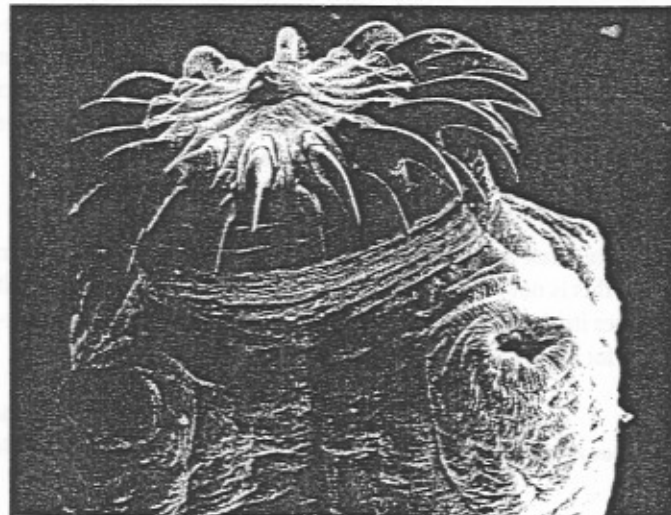
Hunting

A cat's basic instinct is to survive, and despite having contrived to ensure that it has warmth, safety, food and love provided by its chosen human, it will still be transformed into a lethal hunting machine as soon as it emerges from the catflap. No matter how dark, or sinister the surroundings, a cat's eyes and ears enable it to see and hear its prey coldly and clearly, to stalk and to kill.

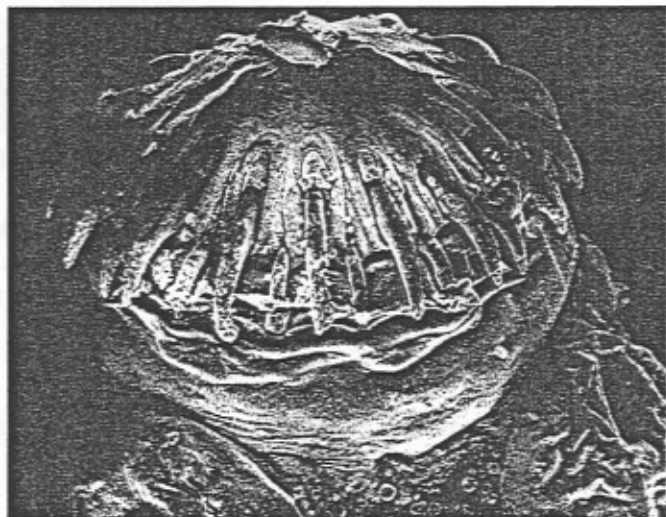
In so doing it runs the considerable risk of picking up parasites.

These parasites have evolved to live a life (very successfully, it must be said) either inside, or on the surface of, other creatures, and for certain parasites, their lifecycle is only completed when the cat consumes its prey. It is an elaborate way to survive - first inside one host species, and then inside a second. And these worms do not discriminate against otherwise clean-living pets: even the most pampered pussy can pick up worms if it goes out

Head of the tapeworm *Taenia taeniaeformis*.



Head of the tapeworm *Taenia taeniaeformis* after treatment with praziquantel.



Who knows what he picked up last night?

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hunting. Bearing in mind how good cats are at hunting, this can be a real problem.

The Worms, The Cat and The Vet

It is pretty safe to assume that, at some stage during its life, your cat will get worms. That said, it is also common sense to arrange to treat your pet on a regular basis, whether or not there are any obvious signs of worms. Effective wormers are readily available from your veterinary surgeon, and these products have been shown to be highly effective against the intestinal worms which your cat can get. Due to the ease with which cats can become infected, it makes good sense to use them to treat your pet and to do so, at least four times a year.

Tapeworms

There are actually two sorts of tapeworms which cats may be exposed to in this country. One is picked up by a cat catching mice or rabbits, and the other is picked up by a cat swallowing infected fleas, while grooming itself.

You can often tell when a cat has tapeworms as you may actually see small white segments of the worm wriggle out of the cat's bottom. Failing that, these segments may be seen either sticking to the fur near the cat's bottom, or else you will notice them on the settee etc., where the cat was lying. These segments tend to squiggle and squirm, and are similar in size to a grain of easy-cook long grain rice.

This segment contains lots of tapeworm eggs, which are released into the environment (including in the home), and is produced by the adult worm, which lives out of sight, inside the cat's intestines. It fastens on to the gut wall by means of suckers and sharp hooks and doesn't let go. It is effectively competing with your cat for the nutrients in the food it eats, and its presence offers no benefits to your cat whatsoever, whereas your cat is providing this unwanted lodger with free food and board!!

When your vet asks you about worming your cat, he/she will ask whether or not your cat is a hunter and whether it ever gets fleas. Cats which have fleas not only require effective flea control but also worming for tapeworms, and probably other worms also

Roundworm

There are two roundworms which cats may be exposed to in this country.

Roundworms may be picked up in a number of different ways. One way is by a cat eating roundworm eggs when out and about. When a cat with roundworms goes to the toilet, its droppings may contain eggs which can survive for months, if not years, in the soil. Once picked up on your cat's coat or paws, they are swallowed during grooming and develop to adult worms in your cat's intestines. These worms in turn, produce eggs which will further contaminate the environment, including gardens, children's sand pits and parks.

Small rodents such as mice can also harbour roundworm larvae in their tissues and if eaten by a cat, also give rise to adult worms in the cat's intestine.

It is also possible for a queen to infect her kittens with roundworms when she is feeding them, as worm larvae can pass from the mother to the kittens via her milk.

Treatment

Nowadays there are a variety of different worm products available. Some act against roundworms only; others only remove tapeworms, and a third group of products is effective against both round- and tapeworms. These "all-in-one" tablets are very effective and can either be given whole, or crushed in food.

More recently, a 'spot-on' product was introduced for use in cats which regularly get tapeworms, but which are difficult to give tablets to.

How Often?

While worming will get rid of any worms, which may be present in your cat's intestine at the time of treatment, it will not prevent re-infection. It is therefore important to worm your cat regularly (four times a year or as recommended by your vet), especially if it hunts and/or has had fleas. In this way you can help to keep your cat free from worms, and from the health problems they cause.

The Last Word

Clients often ask about another type of worm - ringworm. In fact, this is not a worm at all, but a fungal infection of the skin. It causes itchiness, scabs, and hair loss - a completely different picture for a completely different problem.

For further information visit www.noworm.co.uk
For all your pet information needs visit www.vetulike.co.uk

This information is of a general nature only. If you have any questions, please ask your vet.

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Who knows what he picked up last night?

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