

Proud to pick up?



Cumbria
Wildlife Trust

Nature reserves aren't just for wildlife, they are for people to enjoy too. With the exception of South Walney, dogs are allowed to be walked on our nature reserves, but we ask that you clean up after them. Here's why...

There are approximately **8.5 million dogs in the UK***

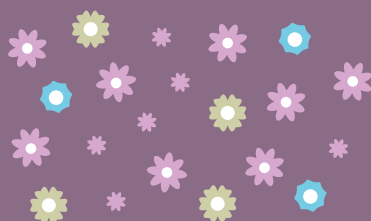


24% of households own at least one dog

Each day dogs produce over **1,000 tonnes of waste****



The same as **200 elephants**



Wildflowers need low nutrients to thrive



Added nutrients from poo encourages nettles and thistles



Which outcompete the wildflowers

Dog poo and discarded plastic bags are environmental pollutants



60,000

people visit our nature reserves each year:



Poo is transferred to wheelchairs, prams, hands and feet

Staff and volunteers are at risk as they work:



Over 100

conservation work parties take place at our nature reserves each year

Common excuses

People tend to have an answer for not picking up after their pooch – these are the most common, but aren't acceptable. Ever.



I didn't see



I forgot my bags



It's natural



I'm not carrying it



It's only the same as sheep, cow or fox poo



Someone else will move it!



It's fertiliser



Rain washes it away



There's no bins

Be thoughtful. Be responsible. Pick up.

Health risks

Dog poo can carry harmful diseases, which can affect both wildlife and us.



Canine Toxocariasis
Can lead to blindness in humans and risk of serious disease in livestock



Neosporosis
Can cause abortion in cattle



Sarcocystosis
Can cause neurological disease and death in sheep

Just a reminder...

Nature reserve entrances are not dog toilets: please pick it up and take to your car

It only takes 30 seconds to clean up after your dog; leaving it will take months to decompose

Poo-filled plastic bags hanging in trees, stuffed in walls and thrown into hedgerows are NOT removed by staff, or the dog poo fairy



- Ringworm
- Hookworm
- Tapeworm
- Whipworm

To prevent the spread, pick up their mess

We hope you enjoy your visit to our nature reserves – thank you for treating these sensitive places with respect.

For more information visit www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/information-for-dog-owners

Sources:

* Pet Food Manufacturers Association, 2016

** Campbell, F. (2007) People Who Litter: ENCAMS Research Report, ENCAMS, Wigan, UK.