

Important information for dog owners



Help reduce serious health risks to livestock from dog faeces

There is growing evidence of links between two diseases in livestock and dog faeces left on grazing land.

- Neosporosis – causes abortions in cattle
- Sarcocystosis – causes neurological disease and death in sheep

How can you help stop the spread of these diseases?

- **Always remove your dog's faeces from all locations, including grazing land.** If your dog is carrying the parasites it will pass the eggs in its waste. By safely disposing of dog faeces you will help minimise the risk of passing on disease to livestock. Use a dog waste bin, public litter bin, your home general waste bin or a home pet waste composter or wormery.
- **For its own safety, don't let your dog eat anything it finds when out on a walk, including remains of dead animals or leftover birth materials such as placentas.** Your dog may be poisoned, or infected by parasites if you allow it to eat animal material it may find. Often the parasites produce no symptoms in dogs, but sometimes the disease of neosporosis can seriously and permanently affect your dog's health and possibly result in death.
- **If you choose to feed your dog raw meat, make sure that it is parasite-free.** Your dog can pick up parasites from eating uncooked meat. You won't be able to tell if raw meat contains parasites just by looking at it, but your vet will be able to give you advice on how to make sure raw meat is safe for your dog.
- **Follow veterinary advice about worming your dog** for its own health as well as reducing risks to livestock.



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