

Important information for dog owners



Help reduce the risk of the spread of disease in livestock from dog waste

There is growing evidence of the links between two specific diseases in livestock and waste from infected dogs being left on grazing land. The two diseases are:

- Neosporosis – which can cause abortions in cattle
- Sarcocystosis – which can cause neurological disease and death in sheep

Key messages for dog walkers and owners

Parasites can be transmitted to livestock through infected dog waste being left on grazing land. Some of these parasites cause diseases in livestock which can result in death of sheep, and abortion in cattle.

Dog walkers and owners can take some simple steps to help minimise the risk of spreading these diseases:

- **Always remove dog waste 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 waste, you will help minimise the risk of passing on disease to livestock.
- **Don't let your dog eat remains of dead animals or leftover birth materials such as placentas whilst out walking.** Your dog may be infected by parasites if you allow it to eat animal material it may find whilst out on a walk. Often the parasites cause no symptoms in dogs, but some times the disease of neosporosis can seriously 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 local vet will be able to give you advice on how to make sure raw meat is safe for your dog.

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