North Hertfordshire is a designated area under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 legislation.

This makes it an offence not to clean up after your dog in a place to which the general public have access.

A person in charge of a dog MUST clean up after it.

Why you should clean up after your dog

Apart from the legal aspects, dog fouling is unsightly, smells and carries diseases.

Toxocara Canis is a potential health risk. It is a roundworm that lives in the dog's gut. Eggs are passed out with the faeces and can survive for several years. The eggs hatch into larvae which, if ingested, will enter the bloodstream. The human blood is an alien environment and the larvae will remain dormant. However, if a larvae lodges in the small blood capillaries behind the eye, it can cause partial loss of vision. Although this is very rare and the body's defences will normally destroy the larvae, cleaning up after your dog will remove the risk.

Which places are public areas?

All areas to which the public have general access EXCEPT:

- Carriageways with a speed limit of over 40 mph, and land running alongside them.
- Land used for agriculture or woodlands.
- Land which is predominantly marshland, moor or heath.
- Rural common land.
- Privately owned land which the owner does not want included.

Private gardens, drives etc are not covered by the legislation as they are not for general public access.