

DUNG GUIDANCE – Scotland only

This guidance offers some information on concerns about horse dung

Since the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, horse riders and carriage drivers have a right of responsible access to many more paths and tracks than before. Although there is no legislation to pick up dung, the BHSS advises that:

General

- Horses usually dung within a short distance from the start of their ride
- Some horses never dung when exercised
- Some horse will automatically stop, some will slow down, others will dung at any speed and the rider often is unaware

Hygiene

- **Unlike dog faeces horse dung from the normal healthy horse does not present a threat to human health.**
- Horse dung is mainly digested grass
- Horse dung is good for biodiversity, and is useful in a compost bin
- Horse dung is biodegradeable

Public Roads

- There is no legislation to obligate riders or carriage drivers to clean up their horse's dung from the public roads
- If a rider is on a road and their horse has dropped out side someone's driveway, and it is safe to do so, then it may be courteous to dismount and kick the dung into the gutter, only if the road is clear and your horse is amenable
- Carriage drivers should carry a shovel and a bucket with them to lift and remove dung and take it home, as long as it is safe to do.
- Riding schools or livery yards that regularly use public roads close by may be courteous by doing a regular "poo run" to clear dung from these roads

Paths, Tracks and other Off-road Routes

- Riding schools or livery yards that regularly use paths or tracks would be courteous by doing a regular "poo run" to clear dung from these routes
- If your horse dungs on a multiuse path, particularly on a path that is used by wheelchairs, prams or cyclists it is courteous and responsible to:
 - Dismount and kick it to the side
 - Position your horse to the side of the path if you can before he starts

Carparks

- Never clean your horsebox or trailer out in a carpark, layby or onto a path. If your horse drops whilst tied up outside your vehicle please remove the dung and take it home with you

Dogs

- Under the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 a person commits an offence if they do not immediately remove the faeces of their dog in any public open space, this includes riders or drivers who take their dogs with them, and includes paths, tracks, the beach, etc