

# New rules on dog fouling from next month

✖ The Scottish Government has introduced new rules on dog fouling which will come into effect on 1 April 2016.

Any dog owner who allows their pet to foul, and who fails to pick up after them will be charged a fine of £80 which is double the current fixed penalty rate.

This change to the financial penalty brings it in line with the penalty for littering.

The Scottish Government is also working with local authorities to identify ways of collecting unpaid penalties.

Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs, Paul Wheelhouse, said:

“Dog fouling is not only unpleasant, it can also pose potentially significant risks to health, particularly to children. We are clear that dog owners who do not clear up after their pets are breaking the law.

“We believe the increased penalty will act as a greater deterrent for people who do not take responsibility for their pets.

“This is an issue that many people feel strongly about and affects all too many communities. Not only are we increasing the penalty but we are also working with local authorities to look at ways to make sure that fines are properly collected from those who have chosen to break the law.”

Derek Robertson, Chief Executive of Keep Scotland Beautiful, said:

“Dog fouling is at its highest level in a decade in our

streets and open spaces, so we welcome the doubling of the fixed penalty notice for dog fouling, a measure supported by 63% of people asked in a YouGov Poll commissioned by Keep Scotland Beautiful in August 2015.

“Increasing the fine to £80 is a positive step in the right direction and will send a clear message to irresponsible dog owners that their actions have a negative impact on people and our communities. However, increased fines form only part of the solution and that is why we have called for national leadership and a more strategic integrated and coordinated approach to conserve and improve Scotland’s local environmental quality.”