



# Hazardous Pet Waste

## Policies & Procedures

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# Hazardous Pet Waste

## Scope

### Who

Applies to all employees working around pet waste.

## Purpose

123 Support Services aspires employees that work new pet waste. This Policy and Procedures sets out 123 Support Services' clear processes.

## General Rules

Mowing other people's lawns and maintaining their gardens, mowing public parks and sports fields, inevitably puts you at risk of possible contact with animal faeces, particularly dog faeces (dog excrement, poo, poop, shit - whatever you want to call it, is very common with our large pet population).

Very few studies have actually looked at the risk of zoonoses (diseases that spread between animals and humans) in Australian homes. While little research and authoritative publications are available about our Australian situation it is clear that dog excrement is a common and widespread problem for human health and is a major source of unwanted pollution of our environment.

Extensive Internet research finds very few authoritative references to the actual risk in Australia and none seems to mention the rather obvious and likely increased risk to workers who do lots of mowing, every working day for years and in many different locations.

Reduce Your Risk:

It is up to you - if the relationship and circumstance permits, politely ask clients with pets and unacceptably fouled gardens to clean up the mess before you visit to mow their lawns. If they don't or won't, charge them extra for this unpleasant service.

Bag It and Bin It - carry a poop-scoop and a packet of bags in your truck and clean up the droppings without skin contact before you mow the area. A 'poop scoop' is a very simple plastic claw device that is used in conjunction with 'poop bags'. A poop bag is very similar to a nappy sack. It is a small plastic bag with two handles at the top. A knot can be tied in the handles to seal them closed. The bottom of the bag is placed so it is sitting in the 'claw' and the top of the bag is folded over the outside of it, covering the hand. It is used to grab the faeces, and is then closed. The bag is then turned inside-out over the claw and the faeces are sealed in the bag. Neither the hand nor the poop scoop comes into contact with the faeces, providing a more hygienic way to lift dog excrement.

Any small plastic bag can be used (providing it has no air-holes in it!) but most people don't even want to handle the faeces through a bag. Commercial poop bags are sold at supermarkets, veterinary clinics, pet stores and even large garden centres. Many local authorities now provide free poop bags, reflecting the importance of cleaning up after dogs.

The filled bags are preferably put in the pet owner's garbage bin or if necessary carried home for safe disposal into your own garbage bin or a dog loo, or placed in one of the dedicated 'poop bins', provided by the local

authorities which are sometimes provided in dog walking areas. Or if it is not possible or undesirable to dispose of the bag at home, then it should be double-wrapped before being placed in a public litter bin.

Pregnant women and individuals with impaired immunity should take extra precautions when cleaning up animal faeces by wearing disposable gloves available from chemists. “Animal Keeping on Private Property: Environmental Health Officers are often called to investigate offensive odours on domestic premises when dog faeces are not being properly disposed of. In addition to the smell causing offence to neighbours, animal faeces left in gardens may provide a food source for pests and is considered insanitary if not properly managed. Any person allowing such an offensive condition may be issued with a \$300 expiation notice (fine) under the (SA) Public and Environmental Health Act 1987.

Dog faeces should be picked up and properly disposed of in a sanitary manner at a minimum of once a week. If you have a large dog or numerous dog son the property, you will need to do this more frequently. It is recommended that the faeces is disposed of in a garbage bag, tied up, and disposed of in you weekly rubbish bin.”

Similar powers, policies, obligations on citizens and penalties exist in all States in Australia.

## **Further Advice or Assistance**

Further advice and information can be obtained from the:

- » 123 Support Services' Director:
  - by phoning: 07 4361 6848;
  - by emailing: [admin@123supports.com](mailto:admin@123supports.com)
- » NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (<https://www.ndiscommission.gov.au>)

## **Effectiveness and Review**

The Director will review this Policy and Procedures document each 12 months on the anniversary of its approval