**Working with local Farmers in North West Leicestershire**

Following a call from a local Farmer in Donisthorpe regarding dog fouling on his land, Street Environment Officers, Jackie Sykes and Ruth Mulvany from North West Leicestershire District Council, called to see Phil Sherratt to discuss how they could help.

The problem was that dog walkers were allowing their dogs to stray from the public footpath and foul on pasture land belonging to the farmer, but were NOT picking up after their dog.

Unfortunately this fouling contained a parasite known as *Neospora* and caused several of the farmers’ cattle to abort, not only causing distress to the animals, but affected the farmers’ livelihood.

To assist, Jackie and Ruth designed appropriate signage, which was used along the footpath, arranged a letter drop to the local residents and used CCTV cameras to establish footfall in the area.

A month after this intervention Jackie and Ruth met with Phil to discuss the affects and were delighted when Phil reported that he believed there was a substantial decrease in fouling along the footpath.

This intervention has now taken place at two other areas within the district and we are happy to report similar results.

Please therefore respect our countryside and if you are walking your dog, you must pick up wherever you are.

If you would like to report an environmental crime, please contact NWLDC

Tel: 01530 454545

Email: [street.protection@nwleicestershire.gov.uk](mailto:street.protection@nwleicestershire.gov.uk)

Neosporosis

Key points:

* *Neospora* is a parasite type organism that can infect cattle
* *The Neospora* parasite was first detected in dogs over 30 years ago, but the link to cattle emerged relatively recently
* Dogs are a host to the parasite that produce eggs.

Eggs are then shed in the fouling on pastureland & cows ingest the eggs.

* The pregnant cow may show no outward signs but when the parasite passes to the unborn calf via the placenta it can cause foetal death.
* Some calves survive the gestation period and are born with neurological signs or still born, others may look healthy but are

infected with the parasite which means they are carriers.

* Infected cattle stay infected for life as there is no licensed vaccine available in the UK at present.
* It’s a problem worldwide and there is evidence it’s on the increase in the UK

THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SHOW *NEOSPORA* CAN INFECT

HUMANS

Information provided by “A Farmers Guide to Tackling Neospora” produced by Morrison’s Farming, Arla & Moredun