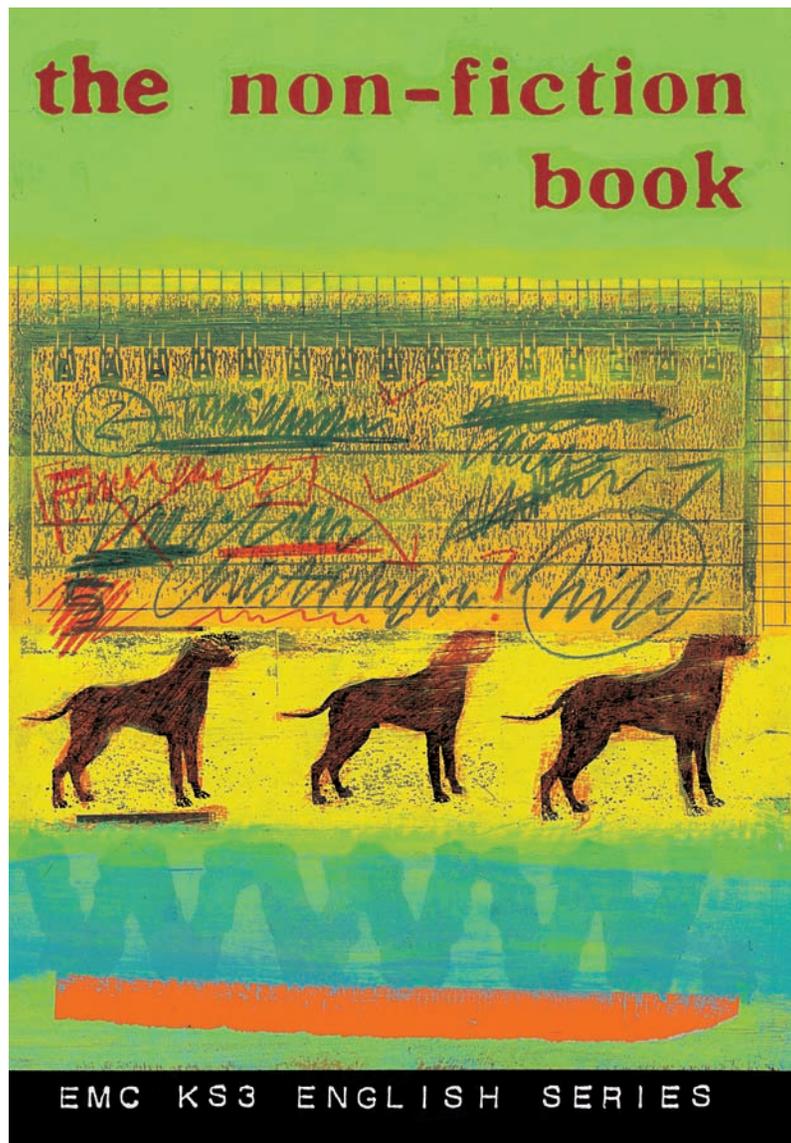


KS3 Non-Fiction Book: Dirty Dogs



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In this unit you will learn:

- how to tell others your point of view
- how to examine the structure and language of information and instruction texts
- how to read an opinion column which expresses a point of view
- how to write one of the following:
 - a letter to an MP demanding action
 - a public information leaflet
 - an opinion column for a newspaper.

Getting the facts

Reading an information text Pair and class work

- Read *The Independent's* 'Dirty Dogs Campaign' fact sheet. Talk about what you think are the most serious issues raised by the fact sheet.
- Choose the five facts that you think it is most important to know.
- Share your choices with the rest of the class and explain why the facts you chose are particularly important.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ There are 7.5 million dogs in Britain, producing 1,000 tonnes of faeces a day. ❑ There is no national legislation – only by-laws – to compel owners to clean up after their dogs. ❑ The maximum fine is £500. The maximum for litter is £2,500 (£1,000 in Northern Ireland). ❑ <i>Toxocara canis</i> is the roundworm carried by puppies, and some adult dogs. The worms are expelled in the faeces. There is no obligation for owners to have dogs 'wormed'. ❑ Toxocariasis disease can cause asthma, epilepsy and blindness, but also milder symptoms such as fevers and coughs. More than 200 cases are reported every year, mostly in children. Around eight children a month develop eye disease as a result of <i>Toxocara</i> infection. ❑ Toxocariasis can be caught by swallowing soil contaminated by <i>Toxocara</i> eggs. The eggs can survive in soil for two or three years. They cannot be destroyed with disinfectant. ❑ It takes two weeks for faeces to become infectious. Fresh faeces pose no threat from <i>Toxocara</i>. "Poop-scooping" is therefore safe and effective. | <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>DIRTY DOGS</p>  <p>CAMPAIGN</p> <p>Wanted: a solution that can work</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Soil surveys of London parks have found two-thirds contaminated with <i>Toxocara</i> eggs. ❑ The issue on which MPs receive most complaints is dog fouling. ❑ "Poop scoops" are provided free by some local authorities; pet shops sell them for around £3 for 20. Old plastic bags and bits of cardboard do equally well. <p>USA: On the spot fines up to \$100 in some cities. Pavements "pretty clean".</p> <p>Belgium: 1.2 million dogs. Voluntary registration. "Worse than London, disgusting."</p> | <p>France: 9.5 million dogs. Compulsory registration. Fouling fines imposed by traffic wardens. Parisian clean-up operation using 100 motorised pooper scoopers or "caninettes" costs £4 million annually. Pavements "not too bad".</p> <p>Germany: 3.6 million dogs. Dog tax around £30. Leash laws; some park areas set aside for dogs. Pavements "dreadful".</p> <p>Iceland: Dogs banned from Reykjavik and other urban centres until mid 1980s because of worm problems. Now allowed into town: maximum £20 fine for fouling.</p> <p>Ireland: 600,000 dogs. National licensing. Dog free zones in parks. Pavements "better than in England".</p> <p>Italy: 5.5 million dogs. Compulsory registration. "Dogs foul roads and pavements; whatever the laws are they are not enforced."</p> <p>Netherlands: 1.8 million dogs. Voluntary registration. No fouling legislation; "the streets of Amsterdam are not clean".</p> <p>Spain: 3 million dogs. Registration and licensing scheme. Pavements "not that clean".</p> <p>Sweden: 700,000 dogs. Stockholm has leash laws, poop scoop schemes and dog-free zones. Streets "perfectly clear. Very little mess of any kind".</p> |
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Dirty Dogs

Reading for information – a government leaflet

- Read the document *Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996* out loud. Talk about any parts of it which you find difficult or do not understand.
- Make up three questions on the *Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996*. Take your questions to another pair and hold a short quiz to check how fully you have understood this information text.

Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996

The Act became available in December 1996. It has been designed as a simplification of a range of byelaws. The land which can be covered was extended. The Act is adoptive so authorities can decide which areas are to be included or if it is appropriate in their area.

Authorities can designate all of the publicly accessible land in their area as poop scoop zones.

The exceptions are:

- carriageways with a speed limit of more than 40mph
- land used for agriculture or woodland
- land which is predominantly marshland, moor or heath
- rural common land

Private land can be included and landowners can request exemption at the consultation stage.

An offence is committed if a person in charge of a dog fails to clear up forthwith after their dog has defaecated on designated land. Defences are:

- the person has a reasonable excuse eg physically incapable of bending over (being registered disabled is not necessarily sufficient excuse)
- the faeces are deposited in a bin on the land
- the person in control of the land has consented to the faeces being left
- the person in charge of the dog is registered blind
- being unaware of the fouling or not having the means to clean up is not a defence.

The maximum penalty for failing to clear up after a dog, in a designated area is £1,000. Authorities can choose to use fixed penalty notices where the penalty is £25. Offenders can choose to pay the penalty within 14 days rather than being taken to court and prosecuted.

The type of employee who can issue fixed penalty notices has been extended to include contract dog wardens and others such as school caretakers. Employees of parish and county councils can also be authorised to enforce the Act.

There is no requirement to provide dog waste bins or to sign designated areas. However these can provide a reminder to owners. Authorities will have to decide on their provision depending on local circumstances.

The Act is a streamlining procedure for authorities. All dog fouling byelaws will cease to have effect in August 2006 apart from those operated by parish councils. Tidy Britain Group hopes that the legislation will be widely adopted and that dog owners will be encouraged to be responsible and clear up after their pets in all public places.

Dirty Dogs

How do information texts work? Class work

The Independent on Sunday's 'Dirty Dogs Campaign' factsheet and the government document are examples of information texts.

- Skim read the two texts again to revise what you know about the way information texts are written.

The features of information writing

Some of the features of information texts are listed here.

- Find quotations from each of the two texts to illustrate each one. Try to explain why information texts are written in this way.

Information texts:

- use the present tense
- use the third person (he/she)
- make clear how the information is organised and linked
- include examples.



Dirty Dogs

Does the leaflet succeed? Class work

- Talk about how well you think this leaflet succeeds in its purpose which is:
 - to inform people of the problem of dog fouling
 - be extremely clear
 - reach a wide audience
 - persuade people to 'scoop the poop'.

Thinking about argument Homework

- Jot down everything you know about arguments. You could do this as a spider diagram with lines connecting your different ideas.
- What are the similarities and differences between texts which inform, argue and persuade? Think of the *Scoop the Poop* leaflet and the way it combines information and argument in order to persuade people to 'scoop the poop'.

| Column 1 | Column 2 | Column 3 |
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| <p>A cleaner neighbourhood. We all want it. We can all help to achieve it.</p> <p>No one likes dog mess. This leaflet explains how you – as a responsible dog owner – can do your bit by helping reduce dog mess on the streets, parks and beaches.</p> <p>The importance of training</p> <p>Being a responsible dog owner means more than making sure your dog is fed and looked after. Dogs need to be trained and part of this is toilet training.</p> <p>It is best to train when the dog is still a puppy. But older dogs can learn too.</p> <p>How to start: A puppy goes to the toilet very frequently, so begin by putting him outside in a suitable spot if you think he seems to want to go. Keep repeating this and praise him when he finishes. If you can't get outside, get your puppy to use a litter tray.</p> <p>Regular times: get your dog used to a routine. Build up regular times when you take him out – in the morning, after a meal and at night.</p> <p>Going on command: Use a command word such as 'clean' or 'busy' just as he is about to go to the toilet. Always use the same tone of voice and praise him when he has finished. Training him means he will go where you want him to – and not in unsuitable places.</p> | <p>Going at home</p> <p>If you've got a garden, then why not screen off a small area where you can train your dog to go. You can then bury the mess in the garden or pick it up using a poop scoop. Your Council should tell you if they have special arrangements for disposal of poop scoops. Otherwise wrap up your used poop scoop in a plastic bag and dispose of it with your normal household waste.</p> <p>If you don't have a garden and your dog is not too large, try training your dog to use a litter tray. Dispose of the contents of the litter tray by double wrapping it in plastic bags and dispose of it with your normal household waste.</p> <p>But what when I am out with my dog?</p> <p>If your dog needs to go while you're out, 'scoop the poop'. You can buy all sorts of different poop scoops cheaply at pet shops and some supermarkets. Some local councils have their own poop scoops which are available from council offices or from vending</p>  | <p>machines. If you don't have a poop scoop with you, you can use a newspaper or plastic bag.</p> <p>If you use a poop scoop, you will not need to touch the mess directly, many designs of poop scoop involve a plastic bag which can be tied up before you dispose of it.</p> <p>Remember to wash your hands as soon as you can afterwards.</p> <p>Dog mess can contain a number of things which can make people ill – best known of which is toxocara canis, which is a round-worm. If the eggs of the worm are swallowed this can result in a range of symptoms from aches and pains to bronchial conditions. In rare cases, eye sight can be damaged.</p> <p>The risk to human health is small. You can reduce it further by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • worming your dog regularly • always cleaning up after your dog • good hygiene practice. <p>What should I do with the poop scoop when it's been used?</p> <p>Many councils provide special bins where you can put your used poop scoops. Dog waste bins are often red.</p> <p>If there are no bins around, take the poop scoop home and dispose of it. If that is not possible, then as a last resort wrap the used poop scoop again in a plastic bag and dispose of it in a litter bin.</p> |

| Column 4 | Column 5 | Front page |
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| <p>Worms can affect a dog at any age. Caring for your dog therefore includes making sure your dog is wormed regularly.</p> <p>Worms cause sickness and diarrhoea in young animals but adult dogs may show no symptoms. Worming is easy, effective and costs very little. You can get worming tablets from your pharmacist, vet, pet shop or larger branches of supermarkets. Follow the maker's instructions carefully. The treatment required depends on your dog's weight.</p> <p>Adult dogs should be wormed at least every 6 months. Pregnant dogs and bitches with young puppies should be wormed more frequently. With puppies seek veterinary advice, but in general puppies should be wormed when they are about 2 weeks old and then treated at regular intervals until they are 6 months old.</p>  | <p>Poop scooping and the law</p> <p>Local councils (and some other organisations like water companies and the British Waterways Board) can make local laws, called bye-laws. These can require you to clean up after your dog in designated areas, such as streets, parks and beaches.</p> <p>Do not wait until the law makes you clear up. It is in everyone's interest that dog mess is not left lying where people might tread or sit in it.</p> <p>You can do your bit.</p> <p>Scoop the Poop – Clear up after your dog.</p> <p>Further help and advice on aspects of responsible pet ownership.</p> <p>Pet Advisory Committee</p> <p>1 Dean's Yard, London, SW1P 3NR</p> <p>This leaflet is produced by the Department of the Environment in association with the Pet Advisory Committee</p> |  |