

# Glan suas é Bin the Poo



## **TOXOCARA**

Rud atá i salachar  
madraí, Leanaí  
a dhalladh

## **TOXOCARA**

from dog dirt  
can blind  
children

# What is Toxocara?

- ➔ **Toxocara** is a common worm found in dogs and the infective stage of its life cycle occurs when dog poo is exposed in the open environment. The worm can infect humans if its eggs are ingested.
- ➔ Infection from ingested **Toxocara** eggs can cause damage to the major organs and eyes; in extreme cases it may cause blindness. Young children are most at risk as they often put things into their mouths and are less likely to wash their hands properly. They can accidentally swallow dirt that has been contaminated with dog poo which contains infectious **Toxocara** eggs. This may also happen when they handle contaminated surfaces e.g. dogs, toys, footballs/sliotars, soiled shoes, soiled buggy wheels etc.

# How can we limit the risk of disease?

- ➔ Dog walkers can limit the risk to children and reduce their exposure to the infective stage of **Toxocara** by cleaning up after their dog. Dog walkers should bring a plastic bag on all walks, use it to collect dog poo and dispose of the bag in a litter bin or in a bin at home. Once it is in a bag, any litter bin will do – it doesn't have to be a special bin.
- ➔ After handling a dog or cleaning up after a dog, hands should be washed. Ensure children wash their hands thoroughly after outside play and before eating.
- ➔ Dogs, especially puppies, should be wormed regularly according to veterinary advice.

# Remember

- ➔ Legally, dog owners must clean-up after their dog if it fouls a public place e.g. roads, footpaths & parks. Failure to clean up after your dog can lead to a €150 litter fine.



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