

Please make your rubbish animal-friendly / RSPCA.

Contributors

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

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7 Take home unwanted fishing line and dispose of it safely. Never leave fishing hooks lying around, as they can get stuck in waterbirds and other animals.

8 It is illegal to tip solvents or sump oil from cars down the drain, as they can get into streams and rivers where they cause pollution. Some garages have collection points for used sump oil, which can then be recycled. Your local council may also offer this service.

9 Always return supermarket trolleys. They are a hazard to farm animals and wildlife which can get stuck in them.

10 Don't take part in balloon releases. Used balloons often end up in fields or the sea where animals can mistake them for food. Floating balloons look just like tasty jellyfish to sea birds and turtles. When throwing used balloons out with your household waste, cut them into tiny pieces.

This young fox was trapped in a decomposing can as it scavenged for food.

J SLY



Recycle your rubbish

Remember, the less rubbish you throw out the better.

You can reduce your rubbish by

- not buying products which have a lot of unnecessary packaging, and
- making sure that any packaging or containers can be recycled.

Most local councils have facilities for recycling

- glass
- paper and card, and
- aluminium and steel cans.

Some also have facilities for recycling plastic.

To find out about the recycling facilities in your area, contact the recycling officer at your local council. (You can do this by phoning your Town Hall, which is listed in the phone book under the name of your local authority.)

Disposing of your rubbish thoughtfully not only saves animals' lives, it also helps to conserve the world's natural resources.



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RSPCA Campaigns

Please make your rubbish

animal-friendly



C. SEDDON



Hedgehogs can easily get trapped in the plastic bindings from soft drink and beer cans.

Every year thousands of animals

die miserable deaths or suffer because of the thoughtless disposal of household waste.

YOU CAN HELP

Please dispose of all your rubbish safely and securely. Remember that out of sight does not mean out of mind. Rubbish that you put in a litter bin or secure dustbin may end up on an open rubbish tip where it can be harmful to animals.

This leaflet explains how you can make sure that your rubbish will not harm pets, farm animals or wildlife.

COVER PHOTO: D A STEELE

Animal-friendly waste disposal hints

1 Tie a knot in all plastic bags before disposing of them. Knotted bags are less likely to blow away. Also, animals are less likely to climb inside and suffocate.

Birds and other animals scavenging on waste tips are less likely to confuse knotted bags with food and eat them. Rather than throwing them out, re-use your plastic bags!



2 If you must dispose of cans with your household waste, make sure that you remove the lid completely from food cans. Then drop the lid to the bottom of the can and pinch the top shut. This stops the lid acting as a barb and trapping animals as they scavenge for food. The best animal and environment-friendly option is to recycle.

Some can banks accept aluminium cans only, while others can accept both aluminium and steel. (You can use a magnet to check which cans are aluminium. Steel sticks to magnets, aluminium doesn't.) Remember, only a small number of councils have special machines which can separate steel cans from general household rubbish. Contact the recycling officer at your local council to find out more about can recycling schemes in your area. (See the back of this leaflet for details on how to get in touch.)



3 Remove the lids completely from yoghurt pots and scrunch the lids up. This reduces the risk of hedgehogs and other wildlife getting their heads stuck inside the pots.

4 Always cut open the loops on the plastic binding that holds beer and soft drink cans together. This stops animals getting tangled up in the binding. Even better, buy drinks with a cardboard carrying pack instead - then recycle the cardboard.

5 Take all empty bottles and jars to a bottle bank. Glass can cause serious injuries and is a potential fire hazard, so it should never be left lying around. If you can't recycle your plastic bottles, cut them in half before you throw them away (children should always be supervised when doing this). This way, small animals like mice and voles won't get trapped inside.

6 Snip rubber bands so that animals don't get caught up in them.