



Pet burials or memorials in public parks and open Spaces

Disposal of Dead Animals in Public Spaces

- Any deceased animal (wild or pet) found in a public open space, including parks, playgrounds, or car parks, is collected and removed by the council immediately for hygienic disposal—typically via pet crematorium services
- Deceased pets in public areas are handled like other animal carcasses—no option to bury, leave or mark them with memorials.

Legal & Environmental Considerations

1. Land Ownership & Regulations:

- Public parks and open spaces are owned by the Council. No permission is granted for burials or memorials except via formal council schemes, which LSWA PC does not currently offer for pet burials.
- Under the **Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977**, burial of human remains or pets in unauthorized areas such as public parks is prohibited unless the land is designated as a cemetery or burial ground.

2. Health & Environmental Guidelines:

- Council policy treats pet remains as waste, not for informal burial.
- **Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013**, enacted under **Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009**, classifies dead pets as Category 1 or 2 waste. This means they must be collected and disposed of in approved facilities to prevent risk to public and environmental health.
- The **Environmental Protection Act 1990** imposes a duty on local authorities to ensure waste, including animal remains, is disposed of safely to avoid contamination of water supplies, soil, or exposure to the public.
- Informal burials in public open space can breach contamination control protocols and undermine land use designations under planning law and environmental regulations.





There is no provision or exception in LSWA PC's regulations for burying your pet or commemorating it in a public park or open space

- Creating any kind of memorial—plaque, marker, flowers—is treated as an unauthorised installation and likely to be removed, since it falls outside permitted council-managed uses.

Alternatives You Can Pursue

- Bury your pet at home: Legal on private land (with restrictions regarding euthanised animals and burial depth)
- Use a licensed pet cemetery or crematorium: These facilities allow respectful burials and permanent memorials.
- Council-approved memorial options: LSWA PC does offer a scheme—such as dedicated plaques, memorial benches, or trees—for a donation (application required)

Summary

-  Burial in public park and open spaces is **not allowed**.
-  Personal memorials in open space: Treated as **unauthorised** and **likely removed**.
-  Proper disposal: Council will remove and cremate and recharge pet owner
-  Alternatives: Private burial (on your land), licensed pet cemetery, or approved memorials via councils (if available).