

Subject:	Dog Control Public Space Protection Orders	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	14 th May 2025
Report of:	Public Protection Manger	Lead Member:	Environment & Corporate Services
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
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1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the attached Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) as amended be formally varied and extended for a further 3-year period subject to paragraph 1.2 under Section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
- 1.2 That members determine whether they wish to retain the existing maximum number of dogs that can be exercised at any one time (5) or whether they wish to reduce this number to that proposed (4).

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The draft Public Spaces Protection Orders relating to dog control as attached, consolidates 6 current orders into one Order.
- The draft Order may be cited as Dog Control Orders.
- The draft PSPO proposes that the maximum number of dogs that may be exercised at any one time by a person is reduced from 5 to 4.
- The draft PSPO does not propose any other amendments to the existing Order.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced a variety of powers for local authorities to deal with anti-social behaviour including Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's).
- 3.2 These are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life by imposing conditions on the use of that area that apply to everyone.
- 3.3 They are designed to make public spaces more welcoming to the majority of law-abiding people and communities.
- 3.4 The current Orders came into force on 19th August 2019 and were varied and extended on 18th August 2022.

4. DETAILS

- 4.1 The draft PSPO seeks to consolidate the existing orders into one PSPO which may be cited as Dog Control Order.
- 4.2 The draft PSPO does not propose amendments other than the amendment of the maximum number of dogs that can be exercised at any one time.

- 4.3 A 3-week consultation was conducted and residents were urged to provide their feedback on the draft order which is appended at **Appendix A**.
- 4.4 A summary of the consultation responses is appended at **Appendix B**.
- 4.5 Littering and dog-fouling was previously enforced by a third party and that partnership was very successful. The contract was in the main for the enforcement of litter and there was a significant reduction in the number of tickets issued once word spread of enforcement action taking place. This contract ended in March 2023. It is anticipated that the same scenario would play out if another third party were given powers to enforce the PSPO for dog control requirement and this is currently being explored.
- 4.6 The draft PSPO proposes that in line with the recommendations from the Professional Dog Walker's Association (**Appendix C**) and RSPCA guidance, page 10 (**Appendix D**), the maximum number of dogs that may be exercised at any one time be reduced from 5 to 4.
- 4.7 Dog walkers walking dogs in groups as a business argue that this reduction (and even the original limit) is negatively restrictive on their business and has cost implications for them. They argue that they are properly trained and undertake necessary assessments prior to exercising groups of dogs and therefore do not pose a risk to the general public or themselves. They also highlight that they hold the necessary insurance for the activity and walk the number of dogs permitted in that insurance policy.
- 4.8 Professional partners worry about pack mentality which can very quickly set in and also worry about the practical ability of a dog walker to control 5 or more dogs once an incident begins. They also express concerns about how the dog walker can clean up after a dog and control 5 or more dogs at the same time.
- 4.9 Dog walkers as a profession are not currently regulated and there is therefore no standard that can be applied in order to assess someone's suitability to exercise dogs in a group and no legislative tools to monitor their suitability. Many have called upon Government to introduce a licensing regime for the profession and this move would be welcomed by individuals, professional partners and the wider public.
- 4.10 Members should consider whether they wish to reduce the maximum number down from 5 to 4.

5. RISK

- 5.1 Dog control issues are a key concern for residents and the PSPO provides a tool with which matters can be dealt with. There is a risk of these issues becoming overwhelming if the PSPO is not extended, with or without the proposed amendment.
- 5.2 The PSPO and enforcement therefore will mitigate this risk.

6. FINANCE

- 6.1 Any financial implications arising will be contained within existing budget resources.

7. LEGAL

- 7.1 Section 60 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 states that a PSPO may not have effect for a period of more than 3 years, unless extended. Before the time when an Order is due to expire, the Council may extend the period for which it has effect if satisfied on reasonable grounds that doing so is necessary to prevent:
- a) Occurrence or recurrence after that time of the activities identified in the order, or
 - b) An increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities after that time.

An extension under this section may not be for a period of more than 3 years.

7.2 If the Order is not extended, they will lapse on 18th August 2025 which would be detrimental to the ongoing education and enforcement of dog control in the Borough.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The recommendations of this report have no particular impact on any of the protected Equalities groups. It does not introduce a new service or policy requiring an accompanying EIA.

9. REASON FOR DECISION

9.1 In light of the continued support received in the recent consultation, it is recommended that Cabinet approve the variation of the Order and its extension for a period of 3 years. This will allow the continuation of our effective enforcement of responsible dog ownership.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Appendix A – Draft PSPO	Attached
Appendix B – Consultation Summary	Attached
Appendix C – Professional Dog Walker’s Association Document	Attached
Appendix D – RSPCA dog walker’s guide	Attached

Public Spaces Protection Order Dog Control



Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

The Order

Rossendale Borough Council ("the Council") in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 makes the following order.

This order may be cited as the **Rossendale Borough Council Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control) Order** and for the purposes of any enforcement proceedings, Notices, documents or correspondence, the short title of **Dog Control Orders** may be given. This Order consolidates the Orders previously cited as 'Means to Pick Up Dog Faeces', 'Dogs on Leads', 'Dogs Exclusion', 'Dogs on Leads by Direction', 'Maximum Number of Dogs', and 'Dog Fouling of Land'. This order came into force on 19th August 2019, was extended on 18th August 2022 and was varied and extended for a further 3 years from **(date to be confirmed)**.

Interpretation

In this order, "an authorised officer of the Authority" means an employee of the Authority or any other person who is authorised in writing by the authority for the purposes of giving direction under this Order.

"Authority" means Rossendale Borough Council.

"The Council" means Rossendale Borough Council.

A person who habitually has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog.

Any reference in this Order and Schedules to "prescribed charity" shall mean any of the following charities:

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association	Registered charity number: 209617
Dogs for the Disabled	Registered charity number: 700454
Support Dogs Limited	Registered charity number: 1088281
Canine Partners for Independence	Registered charity number: 803680
Dog Assistance in Disability	Registered charity number: 1178719
Dogs for Good	Registered charity number: 1092960
Hearing Dogs for Deaf People	Registered charity number: 293358

The offences detailed at Sections 1 and 2 of the Order shall not apply to a person who:

- Registered as a blind person in a register compiled under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948, or

- b) Has a disability which affects his mobility, manual dexterity, physical co-ordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trainee by a prescribed charity and upon which he relies for assistance.

Offences

Section 1 - Dog Fouling of Land

- 1) If a dog defecates at any time on land specified in Schedule 1 and a person who is in charge of the dog at that time fails to remove the faeces from the land forthwith, that person shall be guilty of an offence unless:
 - a. The person has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so, or
 - b. The owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.
- 2) For the purposes of this offence:
 - a. Placing the faeces in a receptacle on the land which is provided for the purpose, or for the disposal of waste, shall be a sufficient removal from the land,
 - b. Being unaware of the defecation (whether by reason of not being in the vicinity or otherwise), or not having a device for or other suitable means of removing the faeces shall not be a reasonable excuse for failing to remove the faeces

Section 2 – Means to Pick Up Dog Faeces

- 3) A person in charge of a dog on land specified in Schedule 1 shall be guilty of an offence, if at any time, he/she does not comply with a direction given to him by an Authorised Officer of the Council to produce a device for or other suitable means of removing dog faeces and transporting it to a bin (whether or not the dog has defecated) unless:
 - a. That person has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so

Section 3 – Maximum Number of Dogs

- 4) A person in charge of a dog on land specified in Schedule 1 shall be guilty of an offence, if, at any time, he/she has under their control more than 4 dogs, unless:
 - a. That person has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so

Section 4 – Dogs on Leads by Direction

- 5) A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence, if, at any time, on land specified in Schedule 1, he does not comply with a direction given to him by an authorised officer of the Authority to put and keep the dog on a lead of not more than 2 metres in length, unless:
 - a. He has reasonable excuse for failing to do so, or
 - b. The owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.
- 6) For the purposes of this offence:
 - a. An authorised officer of the Authority may only give a direction under this Order to put and keep a dog on a lead if such restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent

a nuisance or behaviour by the dog likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to any other person (on any land specified in Schedule 1) or the worrying or disturbance of any animal or bird.

Section 5 – Dogs on Leads

- 7) A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence, if, at any time, on land specified in Schedule 2, he does not keep the dog on a lead of not more than 2 metres in length, unless:
- a. He has reasonable excuse for failing to do so, or
 - b. The owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.

Section 6 – Dogs Exclusion

- 8) A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence, if, at any time, on land specified in Schedule 3, he takes the dog on to, or permits the dog to enter or to remain on land specified in Schedule 2 unless:
- a. He has reasonable excuse for failing to do so, or
 - b. The owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.
- 9) Nothing in this offence applies to a person who:
- a. Is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for deaf people (registered charity number 293358) and upon which he relies for assistance.

Section 7 – Requirement to provide identity details

- 10) Any person who appears to a duly authorised officer of the authority or to a police officer to be in charge of any dog to which the provisions of this Order apply, shall provide their full and true name and ordinary residential address and date of birth upon any request having been made in that respect whether verbally or in writing by any such officer and within such time as may be stipulated by that officer.

Penalty

- 11) It is an offence for a person without reasonable excuse:
- a. To do anything that a person is prohibited from doing by a public spaces protection order, or
 - b. To fail to comply with a requirement to which a person is subject under a public spaces protection order.
- 12) A person guilty of an offence specified in paragraph 11 is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

- 13) An authorised officer of the Authority or police constable may issue a fixed penalty notice to anyone he/she has reason to believe has committed an offence under section 67 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 in relation to the Order.
- 14) A fixed penalty notice is a notice offering the person to whom it is issued the opportunity of discharging any liability to conviction for the offence by payment of a fixed penalty to the Council.

THE COMMON SEAL OF ROSSENDALE)
BOROUGH COUNCIL was hereunto)
affixed in the presence of:-)

DRAFT

Schedule 1

Any land which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access within the Borough of Rossendale.

Schedule 2

All highways including the public road, pavements, verges, footways and carriageways managed by Lancashire County Council and all locations within the Borough of Rossendale listed below.

Bacup	Rawtenstall
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Bacup Cemetery➤ Bank Street Car Park➤ The Blind Garden, Burnley Road➤ Branch Street Car Park➤ Britannia Greenway Car Park➤ Cowpe Memorial Garden➤ Fern Street Car Park➤ Greenbridge Car Park➤ Hempsteads memorial Gardens➤ Henrietta Street Car Park (off Forge Street)➤ Maden Centre Car Park also known as Bacup Baths Car Park➤ Moorlands Park (Sunken Garden)➤ Rochdale Road Car Park➤ Stacksteads Peace Garden➤ Stacksteads Car Park➤ Stubbylee Park (Rose Garden)➤ Trough Gate Car Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Adelaide Street Car Park,➤ Broadley's Garden➤ Buller Street Car Park➤ Burnley Road Car Park➤ Crankshaw Street Car Park➤ Crawshawbooth Gardens➤ Dale View Allotments➤ Haslingden Road Car Park➤ Kay Street Long Stay Car Park➤ Kay Street Short Stay Car Park➤ Library Gardens, Rawtenstall➤ Lord Street (TH Upper) Car Park➤ Lord Street (TH Lower) Car Park➤ Market Car Park➤ Millgate Car Park➤ Newchurch Road Car Park➤ Ormerod Street Car Park➤ Phipps Buildings Car Park➤ Rawtenstall Cemetery➤ Robert Street Car Park➤ Tricketts Memorial Garden (Formal Area)➤ Town Hall Slabbed Car Park➤ Water Street Car Park➤ Whitaker Park Car Park➤ Whitaker Park, Rawtenstall – Formal Gardens
Waterfoot	Haslingden
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Bacup Road Car Park➤ Cowpe Road Car Park➤ Greenbridge Car Park➤ Miller Barn Lane Car Park➤ Spring Garden Lane Car Park➤ Warth Old Road Car Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Bury Road Car Park➤ Coal Hey Car Park incorporating Deardengate Croft➤ Dale Street Car Park➤ Elm Street Car Park➤ Free Lane Allotments➤ Greenfield Memorial Gardens➤ Haslingden Cemetery➤ Helmshore Memorial Gardens➤ Hindle Street Car Park➤ John Street Car Park➤ Kirkhill Allotments➤ New Street Car Park

	Haslingden continued... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pike Law Quarry Car Park ➤ Ratcliffe Fold Car Park ➤ Salem Street Car Park
Edenfield	Whitworth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bank Gardens (also known as Edenfield Memorial Gardens) ➤ Stubbins Garden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hall Fold Churchyard ➤ Hall Street Car Park ➤ Leavengreen Car Park ➤ Market Street Car Park ➤ Milner Street Car Park ➤ North Street Car Park ➤ Station Road Car Park ➤ Whitworth Cemetery ➤ Whitworth Memorial Gardens

Schedule 3

All land within the Borough of Rossendale (all of the land unless otherwise stated; where the phrase *play area* and *pitch area* are used this means that dogs may be walked under close control around the perimeters of these sites; the play area may or may not be fenced-off; if the play is fenced-off then dogs are not permitted within the fenced area.

Bacup	Rawtenstall
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Britannia Playground – within play area ➤ Cutler Lane Playground ➤ Fairview Recreation Ground, also known as Sunnyside – play area, pitch area and cricket wicket ➤ Gordon Street Playground ➤ Hawthorn Road Doorstep Green – play area and Multi-Use Games Area (M.U.G.A) ➤ Maden Recreation Ground – pitch areas, play area and bowling green. ➤ Moorlands Park – within play area and pitch area. ➤ Rossendale Close Play Area – within play area ➤ Sharneyford Playground – play area and pitch area. ➤ Stacksteads Recreation Ground – pitch area ➤ Stubbylee Park – tennis courts, skate park and bowling greens ➤ Weir Play Area – within play area and pitch area ➤ Western Road Playground – within play area or artificial pitch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Barlow Fold Sports Field – pitch area ➤ Crawshaw Grange Play Area – within play area ➤ Goodshaw Playground also known as Moller ring – play area and bike track ➤ Hall Carr Adventure Playground – play areas ➤ Hamer Avenue Playground – within play area ➤ Hill Street Playground – play area ➤ Loveclough Football Pitch ➤ Loveclough Park – within play area ➤ Marl Pits Sports Centre – pitches, athletic track, netball courts and all areas except designated dog walk. ➤ New Hall Hey Cricket Ground ➤ Staghills Road Play Area – within play area ➤ Whitaker Park, Rawtenstall – play areas, Multi-Use Games Area (M.U.G.A), bike track, pitch area, tennis courts and bowling green.

Waterfoot	Haslingden
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cowpe Recreation Ground – play area and pitch area. ➤ Dean Lane Sports Field, Water ➤ Edgeside Park – pitch area, within play area, within Multi-Use Games Area (M.U.G.A) and tennis courts. ➤ Lumb Millenium Green – pitch area ➤ Lumb Playground ➤ Mullards Playground ➤ Water gardens Playground – within play area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Alden Close Playground – within play area ➤ Clegg Street also known at Pit Pocket Park – play areas ➤ Clod Lane Playground – within play area ➤ Greenfield Memorial Gardens – in play area, on kick-about area and bowling green. ➤ Helmsore Park also known as Snig Hole and Helmsore Memorial Gardens - play area and pitch area. ➤ Ratcliffe Street Play Area ➤ Rising Bridge Play Area ➤ St Peter’s Playing Field – pitch area ➤ Victoria Park, Greenfield – from play area, skate park, Multi-Use Games Area (M.U.G.A) and bowling green. ➤ Worsley Park, Haslingden – play area, tennis courts and bowling green.
Edenfield	Whitworth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Chatterton Recreation Ground Play Area ➤ Edenfield Play Area ➤ Edenfield Recreation Ground – pitch area ➤ Turn Recreation Ground – play area and pitch area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Festival Park – play area and bowling green ➤ John Street Football Pitch – pitch area ➤ Knowsley Crescent Play Area – within play area ➤ Leavengreave Pitch – pitch area ➤ Masseycroft Playground – Multi-Use Games Area (M.U.G.A) ➤ Station Road Playground – within play area

Appendix B

Public Spaces Protection Order Dog Control Consultation Responses

- Q1 Are you completing this survey as an individual or as a representative of a group?
- | | |
|------------|-----|
| Individual | 98% |
| Group Rep | 1% |
| Other | 1% |
- Q2 Do you live or work in Rossendale?
- | | |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 99% |
| No | 1% |
- Q3 Do you own a dog?
- | | |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 85% |
| No | 15% |
- Q4 Do you own any other pets?
- | | |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 31% |
| No | 69% |
- Q5 Are you aware of the existing Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order in the Borough?
- | | |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 57% |
| No | 43% |
- Q6 Do you agree that individuals should be required to remove dog faeces immediately from any public space?
- | | |
|-----|------|
| Yes | 100% |
| No | 0% |
- Q7 If anyone answered no, they were asked to explain their answer.
- Q8 Should dog owners be required to carry a suitable means to pick up and dispose of dog waste when walking their dogs?
- | | |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 99% |
| No | 1% |
- Q9 If anyone disagreed with Q8, they were asked to provide an alternative approach. The responses were:
- 1) Yes and if their dog fouls and they're found not to have bags, that should be a matter for a penalty. But don't agree with enforcement officers having the ability to stop people without due suspicion and ask them to show their poo bags. It's over-zealous.
 - 2) people can run out of bags and it doesn't mean they haven't picked up after their dogs.
- Q10 The Professional Dog Walker's Association recommend that no more than 4 dogs should be exercised at the same time. The order limits the number of dogs under one person's control from 5 to 4. Do you agree with this limit?
- | | |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 63% |
| No | 37% |
- Q11 If anyone disagreed with Q10, they were asked what an appropriate number would be.
- 3 responses suggested 2 dogs
- 3 responses suggested 3 dogs
- 2 responses suggested 4 dogs
- 52 responses suggested 5 dogs (including those that added restrictions such as dog walkers)

59 responses suggested 6 dogs (including those that added restrictions such as dog walkers)

2 responses suggested 7 dogs

3 responses suggested 8 dogs

1 response suggested 10 dogs

1 response suggested any number of dogs

Other comments made are detailed further below in this document.

Q12 Do you support the rule that an authorised officer can require a dog to be put on a lead if necessary to prevent nuisance or disturbance?

Yes 97%

No 3%

Q13 If anyone disagreed with Q12, they were asked to explain their answer.

Comments made on this question are detailed further below in this document.

Q14 Are there any additional areas where you believe dogs should be required to be kept on leads, or any listed areas where you believe this requirement should be removed?

Comments made on this question are detailed further below in this document.

Q15 The order prohibits dogs from certain public spaces, such as play areas and sports pitches. Do you agree with these exclusions?

Yes 90%

No 10%

Q16 If anyone disagreed with Q15, they were asked to suggest changes.

Comments made on this question are detailed further below in this document.

Q17 Do you have any other comments, concerns, or suggestions regarding the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order for dog control in Rossendale.

Comments made on this question are detailed further below in this document.

Q11 Comments:

- Whatever number that can be reasonably controlled by walker
- As it stands because dog walkers have insurance and training they are very good I've walked out with dog walkers very responsible people doing a good job. Generally they walk up the hills away from crowds
- Any
- If under control, I'd say 6
- Surely it depends on the combination of dogs being walked (size/behaviour/physical ability) and the location being walked. Sometimes a dog walker may need to use a footpath for a short period to access more open land but if restrictions imposed their business may not be viable.
- 4 in parks would be a good idea. 6 in open countryside/moorland.
- Stay at 5 depending on open spaces, where it is restricted
- 5-6 depending on the dogs and walker
- For professional dog walkers i believe 6 is very manageable so i do not agree with any further reductions. It would negatively effect both local businesses but also people that rely on their service.
- I am a dog walker and can control 5 dogs

- Dependant on if the walker can control the dogs
- 5 is fine, although the current guidance is rubbish. Rossendale can't enforce fly tipping penalties so they won't be able to enforce this.
- 6 or as many as the responsible dog walker is able
- it really should be for the qualified dog walker to make this decision as they are the experts
- Five or more of dogs get on
- For dog walkers who are trained as many as they can manage depending on the dogs
- 6 to 8 depending on the dogs and the area
- As an ex professional dog walker I had no problems with 6 dogs .However be far better if you licensed any walker over 3 dogs at a time
- I personally own 6 dogs
- Depends if they have insurance, if so up to 6.
- I think it is down to the individual person who is responsible for the dogs. I.e professional dog walker should be allowed more than Jo public. Some people can't even control 1 dog, yet a professional can control a lot of dogs.
- 5/6 is fine with a good walker
- 6 for professional walkers

Q13 Comments:

- Dogs need exercise
- Too open to subjectivity and lack of experience and knowledge of animal welfare by officer
- Areas where dogs must be put on a lead should be clearly marked, outside of these areas (such as playgrounds and sports pitches as stated in the consultation, then people should be free to take their dog off the lead. We cannot allow a situation where certain individuals or groups of people control when a person may or may not take their dog off a lead.
- If it was only used proportionately, yes.
- Only if the “officer” is sensible about it rather than a jobs worth attitude. Most owners are happy to comply
- This is very vague statement, who are the officers and where would they operate.
- Dogs deserve a good run around in an area, I have been walking my 2 dogs for years local to me and I allow them to have a good walk off the lead. They are doing nobody any harm and if needed I will put them back on if another dog on lead but children running round are as much a nuisance to my dogs.
- Personal responsibility of owner
- what does authorised officer mean

Q14 Comments:

There was strong support amongst the responses for requiring dogs to be on leads in public areas, including footpaths, pavements, farmland, parks and near schools. There were concerns over dogs running loose, disturbing others and fouling in public spaces. There were calls for designated off-lead areas where dogs can exercise safely. There were concerns relating to enforcement and the Council's ability to enforce the rules effectively.

Q16 Comments:

Responses highlighted a widespread frustration over dog fouling, particularly in parks, paths and urban areas. Responses requested more dog waste bins and better dog waste collections and stricter enforcement.

Many comments suggested that dogs should not be prohibited from open fields and sports pitches that are not in use at the time with the feeling that many of the sports pitches are not used often.

Q17 Comments:

There were many comments and the common themes arising highlight that dog fouling, dog attacks on people and dogs and enforcement of dog fouling remain a key concern for residents. There were many comments suggesting that dog walkers be licensed. Many comments highlighted dog walkers being adversely affected by the proposed number of dogs that can be exercised at one time. Professional dog walkers argue that they are responsible and should not be penalised for irresponsible individual owners.



Professional Dog Walkers Association

Setting the dog walking industry standards since 2016

Professional Dog Walkers Association Best Practice Guidance

- Ensure the health, welfare and safety of all dog/s in my / our care at all times.
- Always keep all dogs in my / our care under control.
- Always have a genuine care, respect and courtesy for all animals, the public, other dog walkers and environment.
- Ensure security of our clients' premises following all visits, collection and return of dogs.
- Always work within the law regarding all aspects of conducting business.
- Make myself aware and up to date of all laws associated with dogs, control and handling, my local council byelaws, park management rules, outdoor access codes, the highway code.
- Obtain any necessary permits from my local council and comply with their code of practice.
- Ensure all dogs in my / our care have safe and correctly fitted collars and / or harnesses.
- Ensure all dogs in my / our care are ID tagged and microchipped in line with current dog welfare law.
- Clean up after dogs in my / our care and dispose of waste properly in line with current legislation.
- Ensure all dogs in my / our care are transported in a safe and secure manner.
- All dogs should be walked away from and returned to the vehicle on the lead.
- Provide sufficient Public Liability Insurance for my / our dog walking service.
- Provide Employers Liability insurance if I employ / engage volunteer dog walkers.
- Only exercise a maximum of 4 well behaved dogs per person at one time in a public area.
- I / we will carry a dog First Aid kit and fresh drinking water.
- I / we will use kind methods and equipment only for any dogs in my / our care.
- I / we will not disclose any private, personal or confidential information about my clients without prior permission.
- Ensure that all employees or contractors under my / our management abide by this Guidance.
- Ensure that all employees / volunteers receive relevant and appropriate job training.
- I / we will not solicit clientele from any other local dog walking business.
- I / we will not advertise falsely any service or credentials.
- I / will not bring the Professional Dog Walkers Association (PDWA) or the industry into disrepute.

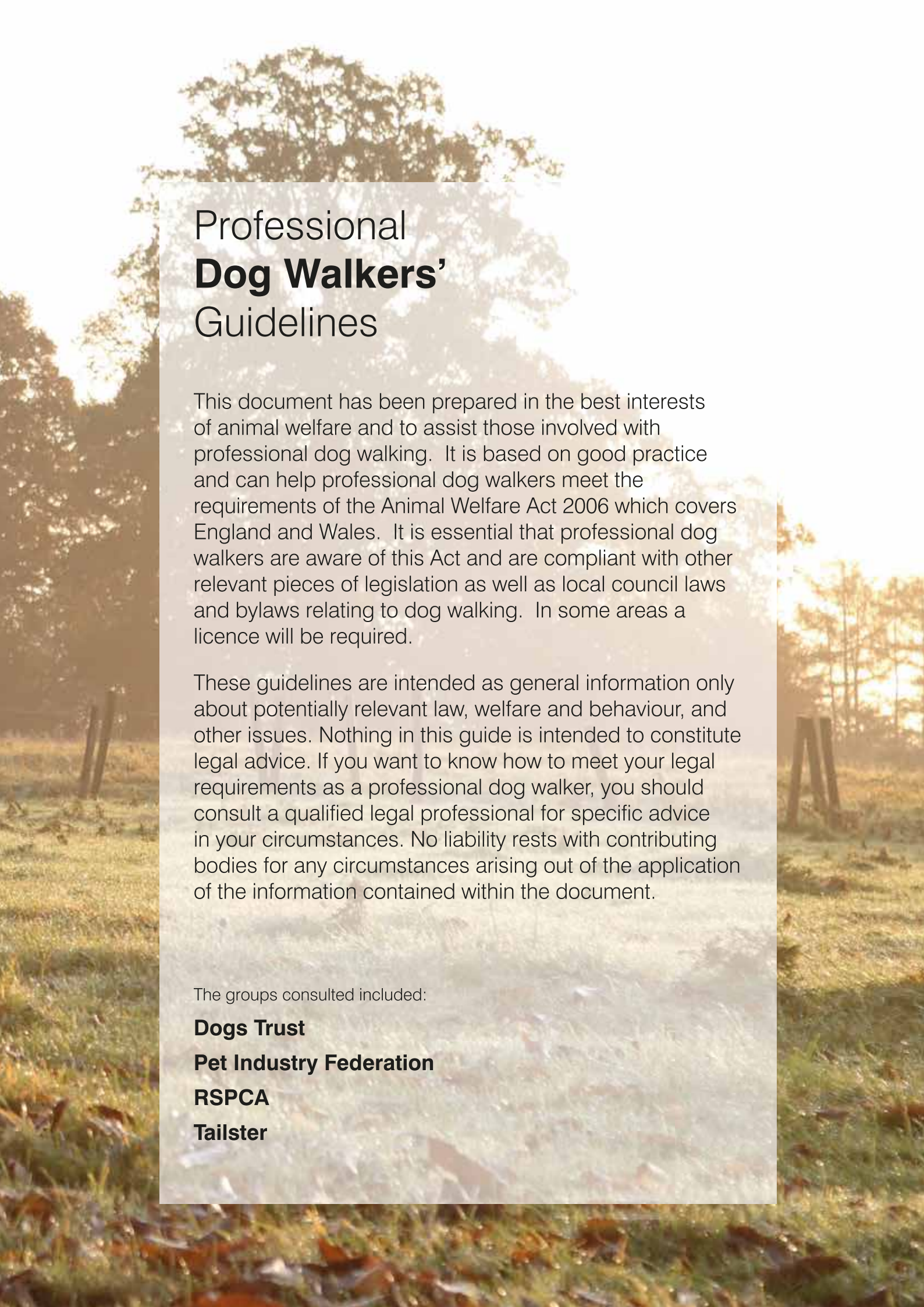


Professional **Dog Walkers'** Guidelines

Endorsed by:







Professional **Dog Walkers'** Guidelines

This document has been prepared in the best interests of animal welfare and to assist those involved with professional dog walking. It is based on good practice and can help professional dog walkers meet the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 which covers England and Wales. It is essential that professional dog walkers are aware of this Act and are compliant with other relevant pieces of legislation as well as local council laws and bylaws relating to dog walking. In some areas a licence will be required.

These guidelines are intended as general information only about potentially relevant law, welfare and behaviour, and other issues. Nothing in this guide is intended to constitute legal advice. If you want to know how to meet your legal requirements as a professional dog walker, you should consult a qualified legal professional for specific advice in your circumstances. No liability rests with contributing bodies for any circumstances arising out of the application of the information contained within the document.

The groups consulted included:

Dogs Trust

Pet Industry Federation

RSPCA

Tailster

Introduction

Professional dog walking is becoming an increasingly common service due to the changing habits of the general population and a heightened awareness of animal welfare. This document aims to provide guidelines that professional dog walkers should conform to, ensuring standards of welfare for the dog, respect for the environment and peace of mind for the owner.

The Animal Welfare Act sets the minimum standard required in relation to the welfare of animals.

Animal Welfare Act 2006

As domesticated animals, dogs are protected under the Act. The law says an owner of a dog is always regarded as responsible for him/her. A dog walker is also identified as being responsible for it - whilst he/she is in charge of the dog. So, a dog walker has legal responsibilities and can also be held criminally liable under the Act.



There is a range of current relevant regulations and legislation which a professional dog walker may find relevant:

- **Animal Welfare Act 2006²**
- **Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014**
- **The Control of Dogs Order 1992**
- **Countryside & Right of Way Act 2000**
- **Dangerous Dogs Act 1991**
- **The Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Act 1997**
- **Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996**
- **Dog Fouling – Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005**
- **Dogs Protection of Livestock Act 1953**
- **Environmental Protection Act 1990**
- **Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981**
- **Health and Safety at Work Act 1974**
- **Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999**
- **The Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015**
- **The Microchipping of Dogs (Wales) Regulations 2015**
- **Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992**
- **Regulation on the protection of animals during transport (EC) 1/2005**
- **Welfare of Animals (Transport)(England) Order 2006**
- **Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992**

² This act and the subsequent information in this document applies to England and Wales only. There is separate, but similar legislation that covers Scotland (the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006) and also Northern Ireland (the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011). It is strongly recommended that professional dog walkers are aware and fully understand the legislation within their own jurisdiction.

These guidelines have been divided into three sections to cover all aspects of dog walking and should provide a clear set of procedures, which all professional dog walkers should follow:

Dog welfare
and behaviour 6

Impact on the
environment
and others 12

Professional
conduct 14

Welfare and behaviour
- ensuring **dogs** are
protected



Understanding a dog's individual needs

The dog's physical health and mental wellbeing should be the priority at all times.

Dogs may have individual conditions that will affect their ability to go for walks, as will their age; and all dogs have their own individual personalities and characteristics which will affect how they are walked, who they can be walked with and where they can be walked. This is of particular importance if dogs do not interact well with other dogs, people or other species. Additionally some dogs will become afraid or worried in some situations e.g. with loud noises.

- The dog walker should meet the dog prior to taking them for a walk so that the walker can become familiar with the dog's needs and that a pre-assessment can be made to evaluate their personality and behavioural characteristics.
- The individual needs of the dog should be discussed and agreed with the owner, and the instructions followed, unless they would cause unnecessary suffering to the dog. This discussion should include the timing, knowledge of the dog's training and the cues used and the duration of the walk.
- The dog walker should be familiar with any medical issues for individual dogs. This should include any medication the dog is on, allergies that might be present and the dog's veterinary practice, including contact details.
- Any walks should be planned with consideration of the dog's age, health, behaviour and fitness.
- Any dog that exhibits fearful, anxious or aggressive behaviour towards other dogs or people should be walked independently and on an appropriate lead and lead length at all times. Consideration should be given to avoid walking in areas where meeting other dogs is likely. An appropriate (basket type) well-fitting and secure muzzle which allows panting, drinking and vomiting might be considered if necessary and with the owner's permission.



Transport

Transporting dogs in vehicles allows an increased variety of walks and interest for the dogs. Dogs can be distracting to the driver and, if loose in a vehicle, can cause accidents. Vehicles are also a source of infection and can result in spread of disease. The interior of vehicles can heat up very quickly, particularly on warm days, and become dangerous to dogs.



- All transport legislation must be followed (Welfare of Animals (Transport)(England) Order 2006).
- Dogs should be transported in vehicles with adequate ventilation and temperature control, with water available.
- Vehicles should be fitted with suitable caging or containment to ensure comfortable and safe transport of the dogs. Restraining with leads or chains must not be used.
- Where more than one dog is transported at the same time, the walker should ensure that the welfare of each dog is safeguarded and that no dog is at risk of injury.
- During extremes of weather consideration should be given to the distance and time travelled in a vehicle and it should be limited, e.g. where a dog is particularly susceptible to heat stroke.
- Dogs should not be left unattended in a vehicle other than for short periods whilst collecting or dropping off. This period should be the absolute minimum time and the vehicle should be locked when unattended.
- All equipment should be capable of being cleaned and be cleaned and disinfected regularly. For example, steam cleaning of upholstery. This is particularly important if there has been an outbreak of disease.



Providing exercise

The equipment used, the way in which the walker interacts with the dogs and how they are walked can have a significant impact on their welfare.

- The dog walker should not conduct any behaviour modification or offer any advice unless they are, in combination, suitably qualified, experienced and knowledgeable. The walker must obtain the owner's express permission.
- The dog walker should not use any equipment which could cause fear, anxiety or distress. For example, electric shock, prong, spray or choke collars.
- The dog walker should check all equipment is well fitting and fit for purpose at the start of each walk.
- The dog walker should not act in any way which would cause fear, anxiety or distress.
- Dog walkers should try to vary the dog's walk to increase interest and stimulation.
- Dog walkers should give full attention at all times to the dog/s under their control.
- Dogs should only be allowed off the lead if prior written permission is obtained from the owner.
- Dogs that are allowed off the lead should be able to be called back to the walker reliably and immediately. If this is not possible, then dogs should be walked on a lead. When dogs are walked on a lead, ideally they should be trained to walk calmly, on a loose lead. The lead should be held in a secure manner, and be maintained at an appropriate length for the situation.
- Bitches in season should be walked in quiet areas and on the lead and walked alone, unless with prior written consent from the owner detailing which dogs the bitch can be walked with.
- Dogs should be provided with adequate fresh water as needed.
- Feeding of treats/food should only be given with prior agreement by the owner.



Group walking

Walking dogs, particularly in groups, results in exposure to infections and disease and not every dog is suitable to be walked with others. Steps should be taken to minimise the risk of disease spreading between animals and to ensure all dogs interact amicably.

- The walker should check that all dogs are vaccinated, wormed and treated for fleas regularly, unless, certified exempt by a veterinary surgeon.
- Dog walkers should be familiar with signs of disease, infection and illness so that dogs showing signs of infectious disease, such as kennel cough, are not walked or socialised with other animals.
- Where dogs are to be walked in pairs or groups, the dog walker should assess each dog's suitability and be assured that each dog will be relaxed and happy during transportation and the walk.
- The maximum number of dogs that can be walked at any one time should not exceed the number stated in the walker's insurance policy and comply with local authority requirements regarding the number of dogs. It is recommended that no more than four dogs are walked at any one time. ALL dogs under a dog walker's care should be reliably under control at all times and transported in accordance with the guidance in this document.
- Dog walkers should ensure they have a lead for each dog.

Returning home

Every effort should be made to ensure the dog is comfortable including towelling down, if appropriate, after the walk.

- Dog walkers should report any concerns about the health, behaviour or welfare of the dog to the client.
- Dog walkers should ensure they securely lock the property when they leave, as instructed by the client.



Lone walking

As a lone worker, dog walkers should take extra precautions to ensure their personal safety. When using a vehicle, full breakdown cover should be in place and any valuables kept out of sight. When walking dogs, walkers should not enter any area where there is a perceived threat and should leave the area if a risk becomes apparent.

- There should be a daily schedule in place documenting where and when pickups, drop offs and walks will take place.
- Dog walkers should carry a charged, mobile phone with them at all times and have emergency numbers on speed dial. Various tracking / locating apps are now available and it is recommended that dog walkers make use of this new technology.

Emergencies

Unforeseen incidents may happen on walks and it is essential that dog walkers are prepared for this eventuality to maintain the welfare of all dogs in their care.

- Dog walkers should have emergency contact details of all owners accessible at all times.
- Prior written agreement should be made between the owner and dog walker over actions if a dog becomes sick or injured during a walk. This should include the authority to seek veterinary attention and the level of decision-making agreed to by the owner, if the owner is not contactable. It should also be confirmed in which veterinary practice this treatment should take place.
- Dog walkers should own a first aid kit designed for dogs and should keep this in a convenient location (ideally the transport vehicle). The dog walker should be trained in canine first aid.

Dog walking - minimising its impact on the environment, other people and animals.



Impact on the environment

Taking dogs for regular walks is essential for the mental and physical well-being of the animals by providing exercise, stimulation and interest to their daily routine. However, walking can impact on the local environment and professional dog walkers should minimise this and show care and respect for the environment whilst also meeting all legal requirements.

Dog waste left in the environment is unhygienic, a health and safety risk for humans and other animals and can cause serious damage to plant and animal communities.

- Dog walkers must pick up faeces from all dogs in their care and ensure this is appropriately sealed and disposed of in suitable dustbins following the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996.
- Dog walkers should have sufficient poo bags on them at all times for the numbers of dogs they are exercising.

Impact on people

Dog walkers should be aware that some members of the public may feel scared and intimidated by, or dislike dogs. This can particularly be the case around children or if walking groups of dogs.

- Dog walkers should avoid areas that are heavily populated with children e.g. playgrounds. In some cases these areas will be covered by local bylaws preventing access for dogs, which must be followed at all times.
- Dog walkers must follow restrictions on the number of dogs to be walked, for example, in Royal Parks.
- Members of the public should be given right of way at all times and if walking with groups of dogs the dog walker should, wherever possible, avoid bottleneck points and narrow pathways.
- Dog walkers exercising groups of dogs should avoid meeting up with other dog walkers unless they are able to control each and every dog reliably and immediately.

Impact on other animals

Dog walking will be prohibited in certain locations dependent on local bylaws. These might be at certain times of year if this relates to wildlife or tourism.

- Dogs must not be allowed to frighten, threaten or interfere with wildlife.

Dogs must be kept on leads in this environment but could be released in some emergency situations if chased by cattle as dropping the lead may help dogs and walkers to get away.

Professional
Conduct – ensuring
walkers are skilled,
knowledgeable and
competent





Complying with legislation

Professional dog walkers should have the safety, comfort, welfare and security of dogs above commercial interest at all times. Dog walkers should be professional and courteous to members of the public, set good examples of animal welfare and dog walking and comply with the relevant legislation.

As dog walkers are in charge of the dog, they could be found liable for an accident or injury occurring or being caused by the dog whilst in their care. This could result in civil and criminal proceedings by those affected.

- All professional dog walkers should have adequate third party liability insurance, and wherever possible insurance that covers the dog in the walker's custody. Whether the insurance needs to also cover emergency veterinary fees depends on the prior written agreement between the dog walker and dog owner regarding whose responsibility it is to cover veterinary fees in an emergency.
- If a dog under the care of a dog walker is involved in an incident with another dog then the dog walker needs to fully document the incident and inform the owner.

National and local council regulations vary significantly and dog walkers should contact the local council for advice prior to undertaking such activities to ensure they comply with the law.

- Dog walkers must have licences if required by local councils and/or follow local council codes of conduct if present.
- Dog walkers must only walk up to the number of dogs covered by their insurance policy and allowed by the local council authority.
- Dog walkers must keep dogs on a lead in designated areas.
- Dogs must be on a lead on public highways even if the owner has granted permission for the dog to be allowed off lead when in the care of the walker.
- Dog walkers must put dogs on a lead when asked to do so by an authorised officer – this will vary depending on local council bylaws.

It is a legal requirement to have a dog microchipped (unless it has an exemption certificate issued by a veterinary surgeon) and wear a collar and tag with the owner's name and address present, to aid identification if the dog is lost.

- All dogs walked must wear a collar and tag with the dog's owner's name and address. It is recommended this contains the walker's contact details alongside the owner's details.
- The dog walker should check that the dogs in their care are microchipped by checking relevant paperwork and that there is an exemption certificate issued by a veterinary surgeon if not.
- If a dog gets lost, dog walkers should contact the dog's owner and the dog warden immediately.
- Dog walkers should ensure dogs are never left unattended in public places.

Training of Dog Walkers

All dog walkers who exercise and handle dogs should be adequately trained to ensure the dog's welfare and their safe handling.

- Dog walkers should be suitably trained prior to undertaking dog walking. This should include up-to-date evidence based knowledge of dog behaviour and sound handling abilities.
- Training courses and dog walking certificates of competence are available and should be undertaken. It is recommended that professional dog walkers undertake regular CPD activities to ensure their knowledge is current. Accredited courses are available including the City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate of Competence in Dog Walking.
- Dog walkers should have canine first aid certificates.
- No person under 16 can be in charge of a dog.

Termination of dog walking arrangements

The owner should be given reasonable notice when a dog walking arrangement is to be terminated. It is recommended that dog walkers have a written cancellation policy and clients are made aware of this prior to booking.

- If keys were provided, appropriate arrangements should be made with the owner for them to be returned in person.
- All of the dog's belongings, such as leads and coats, should be returned.



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*For further details about each organisation,
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www.cfsg.org.uk
www.rspca.org.uk
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www.petfederation.co.uk