

Professional Dog Walkers Scheme

Professional Dog Walkers Code of Conduct

The Council recognizes the importance and obvious benefit to everyone of promoting responsible and considerate dog walking. As a profession, dog walking companies must treat the safety and welfare of dogs and people as paramount at all times. In order to comply with our standards, professional dog walkers are invited to agree with the following conditions of the scheme:

- to require my clients to sign a written agreement and consent form, regarding the safety and wellbeing of their pets whilst in my charge
- to clean up after the dogs in my charge in line with the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005
- to keep dogs in my charge under proper control in line with the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 and The Dogs Act 1871
- to familiarise myself with Section 4 and Section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006
- to ensure operatives have an identification badge stating the company name and contact details. This must be worn while exercising dogs in public spaces
- to attach visible identification to dogs in my charge, giving details of my company, in addition to the visible identification tag, stating the owners details, as required by the Control of dogs Order 1992
- to keep abreast of any forthcoming changes in legislation regarding micro-chipping of dogs and dangerous dogs
- to do everything I can to minimise the impact of exercising multiple dogs on other park users, therefore avoiding causing concern to members of the public
- to provide appropriate insurance cover for the business
- to only exercise the number of dogs covered by my insurance policy, and exercise adequate control in line with canine legislation

- to only transport dogs in vehicles that are fit for purpose, with current insurance, tax and MOT
- to ensure there is adequate ventilation and extraction for the size of vehicle and number of dogs carried, and efficient heat and temperature control or air conditioning

Also, as DEFRA transport requirements state:

- to always carry clean, fresh drinking water and clean bowls to offer dogs after exercise
- to not restrain dogs by leashes or chains within the vehicles. Caging or containment within vehicles must be suitable for the size and number of dogs, to safely transport them. Ideally, cage doors should be fitted to the vehicle

In addition, you are required:

- to have a good knowledge of dog behaviour and skills in dog training and handling
- to have a sound knowledge of canine first aid
- to be registered with a local vet
- to have a plan of action in the event of an emergency