

Guidelines for Dog Owners

Well behaved, sociable dogs are welcome on our walks. The walk leader (who is responsible for the safety of the group) may offer advice, or request the removal of the dog from the walk if it is causing a nuisance. Please respect the views of our unpaid leaders and those of other walkers.

Our simple guidelines are:

- ❖ Please clean up after your dog – at any location and on every occasion – there are no exceptions!

In certain areas it is an offence to leave dog foul on a public right of way or on an area designated under the Dogs (*Fouling of Land*) Act 1996. It could also be a common law nuisance or a civil wrong against the landowner.

- ❖ Please put your dog on a lead, for example, when walking near livestock/other dogs and along or crossing roads
- ❖ Be prepared for livestock to react to your presence. Current guidance advises putting your dog on a lead (as a means of close control) but letting it go if chased. Cows and horses are more likely to go after a dog than a human and the dog can probably run faster and find a means of escape more easily. In some circumstances it may be appropriate to pick the dog up. Livestock will then see people shapes, which they generally do not regard as a threat.
- ❖ If conditions are suitable for dogs to be off the lead, please ensure that they remain close to you and do not run back and forth through a line of walkers
- ❖ Ensure that your dog doesn't get under the feet of other walkers, particularly when crossing stiles and footbridges