



DORSET DOGS
PROFESSIONAL
DOG WALKERS
CHARTER

Dorset Dogs

Professional Dog Walkers Charter

Operating your business in a professional manner

- Have appropriate insurance for your business, including public liability cover and vehicle insurance.
- Ensure you comply with Government legislation on the licensing of activities involving animals, welfare of animals during transport and welfare of dogs and other relevant business regulations and legislation including General Data Protection Regulations and Health and Safety.
- Follow best practice for Professional Dog Walkers' Guidelines published by the RSPCA, Dogs Trust, PIF and CFSG.
- Only walk the number of dogs you can effectively control and never more than six dogs [1] in one group.
- Carry a lead for each dog in your care and keep dogs on leads around car parks and alongside roads.
- All dogs must wear collars with ID tags with the owner's name and address. Add a tag with your contact details when you walk them.
- Carry a canine first aid kit and be able to administer basic dog first aid; ensure you have a plan in place for emergencies that covers the health, safety and welfare of yourself, all of the dogs in your care and any affected third parties.
- Keep informed of things that might affect where and when you walk at the coast and in the countryside (e.g., landowner permissions, temporary car park closures, bird nesting information and events).
- Park in designated car parks where provided, do not obstruct emergency access routes and be considerate of other road users.
- Businesses should display the charter logo on their website or other promotional materials.

Respect the environment and be considerate to others by always following the Doggy Do Code

When walking in the countryside:

- Do respect other visitors and keep your dog in sight - reduces disturbance to wildlife, keeps you and your dog safe from adders and ticks, be aware that some people are frightened by dogs approaching them.
- Do protect nesting birds on heaths, downs and wetlands: keep to paths and use a short lead from February to August - protects endangered wildlife, stops your dog from disturbing ground nesting birds.
- Do follow requests on signs - keeps you and your dog safe from countryside management work, protects sensitive areas and species at certain times.
- Do prevent your dog from chasing wildlife and farm animals - keeps you and your dog safe, protects livestock and other wildlife. Release your dogs if threatened or chased by cattle, ponies or other animals to get to safety separately.
- Bag it and bin it - leaves paths clean for other visitors to use, stops nutrient changes to fragile heathland soils, prevents the spread of diseases that effect people and grazing animals.

When walking on the coast:

- Do protect flocks of overwintering birds: keep your distance and use a lead if your dog chases birds.
- Do walk higher up the beach during the low tide so birds can keep feeding.
- Do avoid disturbing the birds in key areas from November to March.
- Do follow requests on signs



[1] In line with the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 under section 13 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006