

Guidance for Professional Dog Walkers.

Dog walking may be the only role that a person undertakes but it may be part of a wider range of services associated with Pet Minding (the pet stays at the minders home/premises) or Pet Sitting (the pet stays at its home with the sitter or the sitter visits regularly throughout the day). Dogs may be walked from their homes or their minders home/premises or transported short distances in a vehicle to another area to be exercise.

This Guidance relates only to the transport, walking and exercise of dogs by those caring for them in a professional capacity.

The Law

Dog walkers (Pet Sitters and Pet Minders) must understand and comply with:

- a) [The Control of Dogs Ordinance, 1992](#)
- b) [The Dogs \(Liability for Injury and Protection of Livestock\) Ordinance, 1982](#)
- c) [The Animal Welfare \(Guernsey\) Ordinance, 2012](#)
- d) [The Summary Offences \(Bailiwick of Guernsey\) Law, 1982](#)

1) Walkers must not exercise dogs in areas where they are prohibited. See schedules parts I to IV of The Control of Dogs Ordinance, 1992. Dogs are prohibited from specified areas at all times and from specified beaches between the 1st May and the 30th September (both dates inclusive). In other specified areas dogs must be on a lead and under close supervision at all times.

2) Walkers must clear up faeces deposited in public places by dogs of which they are in charge. Walkers must not permit dogs that they are in charge of even to deposit faeces in areas specified in part II of the schedules in The Control of Dogs Ordinance, 1992.

3) Walkers must have a means of removing deposited faeces with them at all times when they are exercising dogs in public places. So as to be clear a dog walker must have at least

two empty waste bags on them for every dog they are in charge of. Faeces and waste bags must be placed in appropriate receptacles.

4) Walkers must exercise no more than **five** dogs at any time and must keep them in their sight to ensure that their activities are monitored at all times. Walkers who allow the dogs under their control to mix with other groups of dogs on walks remain responsible for the safety and behaviour of their dogs. The Summary Offences (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1982, Section 2 Offences in connection with animals, fireworks or disturbances, etc. subsection 1) points a), b) and c)

5) Walkers must assess how robust a dog is, the dogs' temperament, fitness and determine the current stage of the sexual cycle of entire females so that only compatible dogs are exercised together. If the walker is not proficient or qualified to assess dogs' compatibility to mix with others then they must seek the opinion of someone who is.

6) Walkers must only walk dogs that they are capable of managing. Walkers must not walk dogs, individually or as part of a group, that could overpower them or drag and pull them over. Only persons over 16 years of age must walk dogs professionally in public places. Professional walkers must respect and behave courteously to members of the public and other members of their profession. Professional dog walkers must not denigrate their fellow dog walkers (Pet Sitters and Pet Minders).

7) Where is it permitted only dogs with a reliable recall should be allowed to exercise freely off a lead. If uncertain the walker should assess a dogs' recall in an enclosed area before allowing the dog to exercise freely in an open space.

8) Walkers must not use long-lines, extending leads and stretchy leads on more than two dogs at one time. So as to be clear a walker may still exercise up to 5 dogs at a time but no more than two must be controlled using long-lines, extending leads and stretchy leads

9) All dogs that are exercised in a public place by a walker must wear flat, non-tightening collars around their necks bearing on it or having attached to it a disc with the initials of the

Christian names of the registered owner/keeper followed by their surname and the distinguishing letter of the parish where the owner/keeper has their ordinary place of residence. This is in accordance with The Dog Licences (Guernsey) Law, 1969. Walkers may also want to consider placing a second disc on the dog's collar with their mobile phone number on it should a dog escape them while it's under their control.

10) The duration and intensity of exercise provided for a dog by a walker must be appropriate for the dogs' age and health status. The walker must also take into consideration the weather and environmental conditions when determining the appropriate duration and intensity of exercise to provide a dog. In a group the maximum duration and intensity of exercise provided must be no more than the weakest member of that group can manage in the prevailing conditions.

11) Walking dogs in extreme weather conditions should be avoided. The ability of dogs to cope with extreme weather conditions varies depending upon age, breed, health status and the state of the dogs' coat. Dogs must not be exercised in temperatures equal to or exceeding 24°C in the shade.

12) All professional dog walkers are advised to have third party and professional indemnity insurance that covers their activities.

13) Dog walkers must carry functioning mobile telephones for use in emergencies.

14) Dog walkers must be trained in dog first-aid.

15) Vehicles used to transport dogs short distances to exercise areas must:

- a) contain dogs individually in separate spaces or where there is consent from the owners, in compatible groups,
- b) the separate spaces may consist of permanently fixed cages or temporarily fixed crates that have adequate ventilation on three sides which is in the upper part of the cage or crate,

- c) the space provided for dogs must be robust, smooth and rounded and not present a risk of injury or entrapment,
- d) the spaces must be big enough to allow the dog to stand up, lay down and turnaround (for further guidance see [IATA](#) 'Do you have a suitable container for your pet?'),
- e) the floor must provide grip for the dog to enable it to move and avoid slipping,
- f) the door to the space must be lockable to avoid accidental release and unauthorised opening,
- g) dogs may access and exit the spaces without assistance or where necessary by being lifted or utilising ramps or steps,
- h) the space where the dogs are kept must be able to be cleaned and disinfected and must be leak-proof,
- i) the space where the dogs are kept must be 'spot' cleaned and disinfected as necessary and thoroughly cleaned weekly,
- j) the temperature in the space where the dogs are kept must be maintained in a comfortable range for the dogs of 16°C to 21°C in the shade by either artificial or natural means,
- k) a thermometer should be fixed in the space where the dogs are kept to enable assessment of the environmental temperature but must not be accessible to the dogs,
- l) a supply of drinking water and water bowls must be available to provide water to quench dogs thirst,
- m) the vehicle must contain a first aid kit for dogs and a first aid kit for humans,
- n) the contact details of the walker, including the mobile telephone number, must be available in a prominent position in or on the vehicle for members of the public to see.

16) Dog walkers should avoid leaving some dogs in a vehicle while exercising others. This should be avoided completely in hot weather. If this is unavoidable vehicles which are unattended but contain dogs must:

- a) maintain the temperature in the space where the dogs are kept in a comfortable range for the dogs of 16°C to 21°C in the shade by either artificial or natural means.

- b) natural means may include:
 - i) parking the vehicle in full shade and ensure it will remain in full shade for at least the next 30 minutes,
 - ii) leaving doors and windows open to allow air to circulate freely around the locked cages or crates,
 - iii) orienting the vehicle to utilise any natural breeze,
- c) provide the dogs left in the van with a supply of drinking water,
- d) do not leave dog's unattended in the vehicle for more than 30 minutes,
- e) ideally dog walkers who leave dogs in vehicles should have remote monitoring of the temperature within the van that can be picked up by them in real time.

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