

Code of Conduct for Professional Dog Walking Licence Holders

The purpose of the code of conduct is:

1. Ensure considerate use between those undertaking licensed professional multiple dog walking activities in the park and other park users.
2. To protect parks and their wildlife.
3. To ensure access to and use of public open space is preserved for all visitors.
4. To work alongside a licence agreement to ensure that operators are complying with current health and safety regulation and best industry practice for the safety and enjoyment of all.

The Code

The Licensee shall not have exclusive rights over any areas of the Authority's Parks and due consideration is given to members of the general public visiting the Authority's Parks.

Licensees shall leave the Authority's Parks in a clean and tidy condition and be liable for any loss of or damage to any Authority's Property through their direct improper use.

The Licensee shall abide by Public Space Protection Orders or Byelaws.

The Licensee must wear their Dog Walking Licence with photo identity in a way that is clearly visible to the public and Park Management representatives at all times within the park.

Every dog while on a public highway or place of public resort must wear a collar with the name, phone number and address of the owner and/or dog walker inscribed on it or a plate or badge attached to it.

The Licensee must ensure they have a lead for each of their dogs.

The Licensee must pre-screen their dogs. Dogs without proper social skills must be kept under control at all times.

Dog waste left in the park is unpleasant for other park users, unhygienic and causes serious ecological damage to plan and animal communities. It is an offence under the Byelaws to fail to clean up after your dog. Dog waste should be placed in a tightly sealed bag and taken home or deposited in the general waste bins. Anyone failing to clean up after their dog may be issued with a fine by an authorised Council officer or the Police or face prosecution. Licensees should be prepared and bring more dog bags than needed.

Licensees should be considerate about where they allow dogs to urinate when entering parks where the entrance is adjacent to residential areas. Urine leaves bad smells in warm weather.

Park 'No Go' Zones

Licensees are not permitted to use:

Areas within the park where group dog walking activities have a negative impact on other park users, residents, and Licensees;
Areas clearly marked as formal garden areas and other sensitive locations, such as conservation areas, etc;
Areas closed for renovation or upgrading.

A list of areas with unsuitable locations for professional dog walking is available under the terms and conditions. There may be other areas that have restrictions and the Authority may issue seasonal instructions from time to time – please look out for notices and regularly check the LBE website.

Park 'No Go' Activities

The following activities are not to be conducted by Licensees:

Aggressive, intimidating or unruly activities that interfere with the comfort of other visitors;
Corporal punishment towards dogs;
Dogs threatening or interfering with wildlife or the enjoyment of other park users.
Permitting your dog to chase, injure or kill any form of wildlife is an offence under the Byelaws. You may face prosecution (covered in Dangerous Dogs Act 1991).

As a Licence holder you agree to abide by these guidelines at all times. Non-compliance to the above Code of Conduct, Section I of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, and the Byelaws means you are at risk of losing your Licence.

References

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/65/contents>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dealing-with-irresponsible-dog-ownership-practitioners-manual>