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RESPONSIBLE DOG  
WALKING & OWNERSHIP

# A guide to responsible dog ownership and walking in North Ayrshire



Dog walking is one of North Ayrshire's favourite outdoor activities and with the Land Reform (Scotland) Act providing a right of responsible access to a wide variety of land and inland water, there are lots of places to go.

Despite the popularity of dog walking, the problem of dog fouling is a concern throughout North Ayrshire and it is essential to remember that not only is it a nuisance but it is also a potential danger and health threat.

Whether you walk your dog in a local park, in the town, along the coast or out in the countryside you need to ensure you always do so responsibly and help to combat the problem of dog fouling. So, when you're out enjoying your walk with

your pet, make sure you follow the main principles of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (Code) by respecting the interests of other people, caring for the environment and being responsible for your own actions.

You can make sure you do so by following this simple guide:

- 🐾 Never let your dog out alone – always ensure it is under close control or on a lead
- 🐾 Train your dog not to foul in public places and if it does - **Bag It and Bin It**. Free dog tidy bags are available from your local Library or Council Office.
- 🐾 Remember your dog's bark can be a nuisance

# Know the Code before you go



## If you walk in the countryside:

- 🐾 Do not take your dog into fields where there are lambs, calves or other young animals or fields of vegetables or fruit unless you are on a clear path, such as a core path or right of way, but keep your dog to the path
- 🐾 Never let your dog worry or attack farm animals
- 🐾 If you go into a field of farm animals, keep as far as possible from the animals and keep your dog on a short lead or under close control
- 🐾 If cattle react aggressively and move towards you, keep calm, let the dog go and take the shortest, safest route out of the field

## In recreation areas and other public places:

- 🐾 Avoid causing concern to others by keeping your dog under close control
  - 🐾 Keep your dog on a short lead when crossing golf courses
- ### Protect local wildlife and the local environment by keeping your dog:
- 🐾 Under close control or on a short lead in areas such as moorland, forests, grassland, loch shores and the seashore during the bird breeding season (usually April to July)


- 🐾 Out of the water if there are intakes nearby as some reservoirs and streams are used for public water supply.


## The Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act now makes it an offence not to clear up after your dog.

Offenders can receive a fixed penalty of £40 rising to £60 if not paid within 28 days and can also be reported to the Procurator Fiscal and may be fined up to £500.

**Finally, keep your dog healthy and safe by:**


 Ensuring it has some form of identification preferably by having it 'chipped', but at least with a collar and tag. You may be prosecuted if your dog does not have one.

 Registering it with a vet of your choice and ensuring it is regularly wormed and vaccinated

 Feeding it at regular times and with a nutritionally balanced diet.

 Training it in elementary obedience

**The Council's Dog Warden Service that has the power to seize stray dogs under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.**

 If your dog is uplifted and has some form of identification an attempt will be made to return it. If not, you will have to pay £25 plus boarding fees for its return (to a maximum of seven days) with the possibility of the dog being re-homed or in some cases its humane destruction if it remains unclaimed after seven days.

# For further information on:

**The Dog Warden Service**  
or for assistance with stray dogs, etc. please call **(01294) 324300**  
during Office hours

Outdoor access and routes in North Ayrshire please visit  
[www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/outdooraccess](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/outdooraccess)

Routes throughout Ayrshire please visit  
[www.ayrshirepaths.org.uk](http://www.ayrshirepaths.org.uk)

**The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003**  
or the Scottish Outdoor Access Code please visit [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)

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