

Dog Walking – General Guidance

Thank you for volunteering for dog walking. There are several people in the community who, for one reason or another, find it difficult to walk their dog. The service that you provide will be greatly appreciated by them. Below are a few tips which might be of help. Enjoy the walk!

Tips for Volunteers:

- Check with the owner whether the dog is used to being walked.
- Is there a particular time the dog needs to be walked? This may or may not be times that suit you.
- Make sure the size and breed of dog is one you will feel comfortable walking.
- Have a trial walk before you commit to any regular arrangement in case there are any unforeseen difficulties.
- Check with the owner if the dog has any issues you should be aware of e.g. jumping up people or barking at other dogs.
- It is probably easier, certainly until the dog becomes used to you, that you only walk one dog at a time.
- Do not let the dog off the lead unless you have the owner's consent and you are confident the dog will return to you.
- If the dog is allowed treats take a few along with you and of course always carry poo bags and dispose of them in an appropriate dog waste bin.

Dog Walking under Covid-19 Regulations

Guidance for Volunteers:

- When picking up and walking the dog always follow hygiene and social distancing measures and wear a mask if necessary.
- Where possible use a lead that has been cleaned and sanitised.
- Seek out routes that are uncrowded to minimise interactions.

The above Covid-19 guidance should be read in conjunction with the dog walking guidance until such time as Government Regulations are changed.