

Code of Conduct for Professional Dog Walkers

Parks and open spaces are integral to our communities. They serve as a stage for our public lives, are settings where celebrations are held, where social exchanges take place, where friends mix, where cultures overlap, where nature thrives and where people revive themselves from the stresses of urban living.

Positive and respectful behaviour from all users is fundamental to the quality of our parks and open spaces.

The Council will therefore persuade people to act:

- With consideration and respect for other park users.
- With care for the environment.
- With responsibility for the safety of others and themselves.

With large numbers of dogs, professional walkers have the potential to cause a significant and negative impact on the park environment and the enjoyment and safety of other users.

By subscribing to the following code of conduct, professional walkers can minimise this impact, set a positive example to other dog walkers and deliver a safe and quality service for their clients.

Professional dog walkers using the City of Edinburgh Council's Public Parks and Openspace agree to:

1. Clean up after the dogs in their charge, in line with the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003.
2. Keep dogs under proper control, in line with the Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010 and Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953.
3. Minimise the impact that exercising multiple dogs could have on other park users. Quiet parks, or quiet areas within parks, should be used over busy parks and open spaces near children's play areas. Parks and open spaces with sensitive wildlife areas should be avoided.
4. Take extra care when arriving and leaving parks and open spaces to minimise issues for other users. All dogs should be walked away from and returned to the vehicle on a lead.
5. Provide public liability insurance cover for their service.
6. Only exercise the number of dogs that are covered by their insurance policy, and exercise adequate control in line with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. The City of Edinburgh Council recommends a maximum of 6 – 8 dogs at any one time.
7. Have a good knowledge of dog behaviour and reliable skills in training and handling dogs.
8. Make themselves aware of the [Scottish Outdoor Access Code](#) and the [City of Edinburgh Council's Park Management Rules](#) relating to dogs.