

Guidance for Professional Dog Walkers

Dog walking may be the only role that a person undertakes, alternatively, 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, their minder's home/premises or transported short distances in a vehicle to another area to be exercised.

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

Legislation

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

- a) The Dog Licences (Guernsey) Law, 1969
- b) The Dogs (Liability for Injury and Protection of Livestock) Ordinance, 1982
- c) The Summary Offences (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 1982
- d) The Control of Dogs Ordinance, 1992
- e) The Animal Welfare (Guernsey) Ordinance, 2012

Guidance

1. Walkers should meet dogs prior to walking them so as to be aware of their physical, behavioural and medical needs.
2. Walkers must not exercise dogs in areas where they are prohibited – see schedule, parts I to IV of The Control of Dogs Ordinance, 1992.
 - a. Dogs are prohibited from specified areas at all times and from specified beaches between the 1st May and the 30th September (both dates inclusive).



7. Walkers should only walk dogs that they are capable of managing. Walkers should not walk dogs, individually or as part of a group, that could overpower them or drag and pull them over.
 - a. Only persons over 16 years of age should walk dogs professionally in public places.
 - b. Professional walkers should respect and behave courteously to members of the public and other members of their profession. Professional dog walkers should not denigrate their fellow dog walkers (Pet Sitters and Pet Minders).
8. Where is it permitted, only dogs with a reliable recall should be allowed to exercise freely off a leash. If uncertain, the walker should assess a dogs' recall in an enclosed area before allowing the dog to exercise freely in an open space.
9. Walkers should not use long-lines, extending leashes and stretchy leashes on more than two dogs at one time.
 - a. So as to be clear, a walker may still exercise up to five dogs at a time but no more than two should be controlled using long-lines, extending leashes and stretchy leashes.
10. All dogs that are exercised in public places by a walker should wear flat, non-tightening collars around their necks.
 - a. A collar must bear on it, or have 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.
 - b. 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.



11. The duration and intensity of exercise provided for a dog by a walker should be appropriate for the dogs' age and health status.
 - a. The walker should also take into consideration the weather and environmental conditions when determining the appropriate duration and intensity of exercise to provide a dog.
 - b. In a group, the maximum duration and intensity of exercise provided should be no more than the weakest member of that group can manage in the prevailing conditions.
12. Walking dogs in extreme weather conditions should be avoided.
 - a. The ability of dogs to cope with extreme weather conditions varies depending upon age, breed, health status and the state of the dogs' coat.
 - b. Dogs should not be exercised in temperatures equal to or exceeding 24°C in the shade.
13. All professional dog walkers should have third party and professional indemnity insurance that covers their activities.
14. Dog walkers should carry functioning mobile telephones for use in emergencies.
15. Dog walkers should be trained in dog first-aid.
16. Vehicles which are used to transport dogs short distances to exercise areas should adhere to the following:
 - 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 should be robust, smooth and rounded and not present a risk of injury or entrapment,



- d. the spaces should 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 should provide grip for the dog to enable it to move and avoid slipping,
- f. the door to the space should 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 should be able to be cleaned and disinfected and should be leak-proof. They should be 'spot' cleaned and disinfected, as necessary, and thoroughly cleaned weekly,
- i. the temperature in the space where the dogs are kept should be maintained in a comfortable range for the dogs of 16°C to 21°C in the shade by either artificial or natural means,
- j. a thermometer should be fixed in the space where the dogs are kept to enable assessment of the environmental temperature but should not be accessible to the dogs,
- k. a supply of drinking water and water bowls should be available to provide water to quench dogs thirst,
- l. the vehicle should contain a first aid kit for dogs and a first aid kit for humans,
- m. the contact details of the walker, including the mobile telephone number, should be available in a prominent position in or on the vehicle for members of the public to see.



17. 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 should:

- 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. 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,
- b. provide the dogs left in the van with a supply of drinking water,
- c. not leave dog's unattended in the vehicle for more than 30 minutes,
- d. have remote monitoring of the temperature within the van that can be picked up by them in real time.