



GAP Information leaflet

Dogs and grazing

1. Potential issues related to uncontrolled dogs

1.1. Livestock worrying

- Worrying of livestock by dogs, and livestock chasing dogs (and perhaps their owners) is a major concern with those running livestock on farms and wildlife sites alike
- There are an estimated 20,000 sheep worried, and 5-10,000 killed (lambs especially) each year
- Farmers can abandon grazing if dog issues make land unviable, especially in marginal conditions



1.2. Disturbance effects on wildlife

- In addition to killing or injuring wildlife, uncontrolled dogs can also cause less obvious problems. Many species will react to a dog as a predator with impacts related to the species concerned; e.g. disturbance by dogs affects settlement and breeding success in ground-nesting birds
- Impacts are complex e.g. nightjar breeding success on heaths is thought to be reduced by dogs flushing adults from their nests, leaving nests vulnerable to predation by crows
- The dog breeds that have been bred for hunting (e.g. to put up birds for shooting) or to follow scent are likely to be the greatest source of disturbance, although all dogs have this capacity and tendency

1.3. Eutrophication

- Dog faeces and urine contribute to localised eutrophication on semi-natural vegetation leading to dominance by a few competitive species, typically around car parks and along paths and tracks

1.4. Zoonoses and animal diseases

- Dog borne zoonoses are not a significant problem in the UK, especially related to other hazards likely to be encountered in the countryside. Toxocariasis (caused by *Toxocara canis*) causes only about 100 cases requiring treatment annually in the UK
- Hydatid disease is caused by a tapeworm (*Echinococcus granulosus*), which lives in the gut of infected dogs which become infected when they eat a sheep carcass containing hydatid cysts. Worm heads in the cyst grow into a small tapeworm in the gut of the dog and produce eggs. Humans can pick up these eggs when handling infected dogs or coming into contact with dog faeces. Cysts may form in the lungs, liver, brain and other sites in humans and require specialised surgery to be removed -it is an extremely dangerous disease. The disease in dogs is known to occur in Wales generally, and at a higher incidence in Powys and North Gwent. The infection rate in dogs has been steadily increasing. This may lead to an increase in the number of humans who contract the disease

NB: Numbers of Hydatid cases have been very small across the UK in recent years and most have been imported following exposure abroad.

What you can do to help prevent Hydatid Disease - these simple rules will help rid our countryside of Hydatid Disease:

Dog Owners

- Visit your local Veterinary Surgeon who will advise you and supply you with an appropriate worming preparation. To offer complete protection against Hydatid Disease, worming needs to be repeated at least every 6 weeks
- Do not feed raw offal to your dog. Always use cooked meat or prepared dog food (that has undergone a heat treatment) to ensure your dog does not become infected
- Do not allow your dog to stray, particularly if it could get to areas where it could scavenge on sheep carcasses

Farmers

- Remove dead animals promptly for correct disposal according to the Animal By-Products Regulations
- Keep your dogs under control when they are not working
- Visit your local Veterinary Surgeon who will advise you and supply you with an appropriate worming preparation. To offer complete protection against Hydatid Disease worming needs to be repeated at least every 6 weeks
- Sheep carcass and offal are the most likely source of infection for dogs. Do not feed raw offal. Do not allow your dogs to roam and gain access to carcasses of sheep and other wildlife

Everyone

- Always wash your hands after handling dogs
- Report dead sheep to the local authority
- Always wash vegetables, salad and fruit before eating

For more information on Hydatid Disease please contact your local Veterinary Surgeon

1.5. Effects on other recreational users

- Some people will avoid places where they may encounter dogs, for example those on horse back, children, or those who simply don't like dogs

1.6. Dog / livestock interactions

- Livestock young can react aggressively to dogs, and problems for their owners are normally caused when they try to protect their pets or they get in between the stock and their dog. In such circumstances they should let the dog off the lead to allow it to escape
- Between 1991 and 2000, 27 incidents concerning livestock were reported to the HSE, and 20 of these involved dog walkers
- The behaviour and body language of the dog (and dog walker) can make a difference

Training course:

Managing dogs and their owners: www.peakdistrict.org/index/losehill.htm

2. Management suggestions

2.1. The choice of grazing animal

Cows with young calves (<3 months), horned sheep with young, horned goats, stallions and mares with young foals can react aggressively to dogs, so avoid putting these on sites with public access. It is illegal to put dairy bulls on sites with public access.

i.) Species

- Sheep and goats are generally not good grazing animals for use on sites with heavy dog use except perhaps on large, very open sites where dogs and stock can see and avoid each other. However they can be used successfully with prolonged and persistent public education campaigns
- Llamas or alpacas can be used within a flock as guard animals against dogs (and foxes)
- Cattle and ponies are much better able to cope with dogs, but are potentially more hazardous for people if things go wrong

ii.) Breed, type, background and temperament of grazing animal

- Various claims are made for the differing temperaments of certain breeds (and types) of grazing animal. Whilst the degree of breeding of animals to encourage other traits (such as milk production) has affected temperament, perhaps more important is the degree of training to various sensory stimuli. For example animal behaviourist Temple Grandin has trained zoo animals like Antelopes to exhibit lower stress levels (measured by blood Cortisol) than a resting milking cow! Thus animals which have grown up in the presence of dogs are less likely to be that bothered by them when grazing sites with public access
- Young stock (e.g. steers and heifers) can react badly to dogs, tending to mob and chase them
- Assess the temperament of your grazing animals and remove any that do not react well to people and dogs
- Avoid over-inquisitive individuals
- Monitor and keep a record of any incidents so that you can assess the scale of the problem and analyse why, when and where incidents occur

iii.) Other livestock considerations

- Carefully site water troughs and design the grazing area to avoid livestock / human interactions
- A full programme of education, information and interpretation should be available for all visitors, including a targeting of regular dog walkers with events such as 'adopt an animal, 'come to meet the animals', to increase public understanding and remove any fears

2.2. Uses of dogs

- It is worth remembering that human society has developed in close association with dogs, and numerous roles for dogs working with people have developed, such as shepherding, hunting, guarding, drug and bomb detection, crowd control, police work, hearing and seeing dogs, psychological and social support and health
- If you have livestock, why not invest in a good sheep or cattle dog and train them up? This is very rewarding, will help with stock management and is good fun. There are many people who offer training courses



2.3. Uses of dog walkers

- There are 6 – 7 million dogs in the UK. 5 -7% of walkers in the uplands and 25% of those in the lowlands are accompanied by dogs. However, it is a minority of owners who cause the problems
- Dog walkers are often very faithful to their chosen walking areas, often walking twice a day, 365 days a year. Why not use this dedication and love of your site to help with management? Dog walkers can help with / as:
 - Volunteer shepherds
 - An extra pair of eyes and ears
 - Wildlife surveyors
 - Checking site infrastructure
 - Volunteer wardens
 - Advocate for the site and responsible dog walking
- Use a badge, sticker or rosette system: e.g. *'Thetford Forest dog walkers club: I am helping protect Nightjars in the forest'*



VOLUNTEER SHEPHERD IN HOLLAND

2.4. Other management strategies

i) General points:

- Dog management policies vary in effectiveness. Wardening, steering and regulations appear to work best, whilst leaflets and signage are less effective, except as part of a comprehensive strategy. A multi-faceted policy is likely to be more effective than a single policy
- Plan strategically how the pattern of people's behaviour can be influenced (without breaching their rights), such as through steering, use of signs etc., to direct people towards areas where impacts of dogs (and humans) will be less significant on the not unreasonable assumption that they will take their dogs along the same route
- Involve all site users in discussion and site management fora
- Integrate dog management with other aspects of site management (e.g. predator control, livestock management).

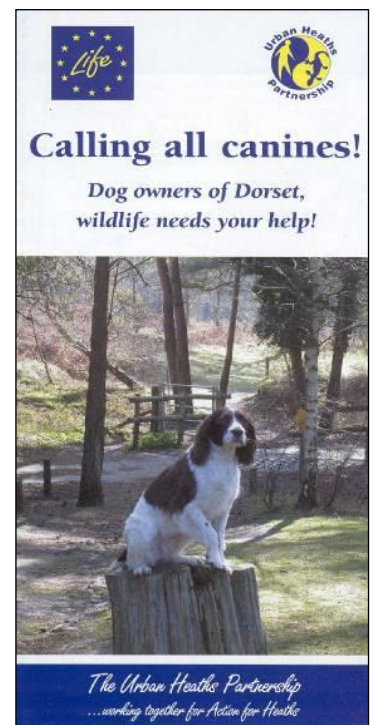
WELCOME AND EDUCATE DOG WALKERS AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO HELP WITH SITE MANAGEMENT

ii) Zoning / dog trails / No access zones

- Create areas where dogs are free to run off the lead and areas where there is no dog access to integrate dog use with horse riding, picnicking, children play areas and sensitive conservation areas
- Clearly indicate areas where dogs must be kept on leads, whether permanent, seasonal or zoned
- Create dog trails and routes to help manage dog walking and steer people away from sensitive areas at certain times of the year

iii) Dog and owner training

- Why not run training courses for dog walkers (*"Grazing ambassadors"*) and / or "meet the animals" guided walks for those who are a bit scared of walking their dogs through livestock?
- Most potential impacts of dogs can be successfully mitigated by training them (and their owners!)
- For those who are keen, (especially those with Border Collies), why not encourage volunteer shepherds? This works exceptionally well in Holland, so why not here?



- Contact: cathy.wainwright@wildlifebcnp.org for information on recruiting and training volunteer shepherds and for information on grazing ambassador training courses contact GAP

iv) Use of byelaws

- Use byelaws to help with dog walking and rigorously enforce them when there are infringements (see also section 3)

v) Guard animals

- Alpacas and Llamas are very effective guard animals for sheep flocks against dogs. Two Iowa State University studies of 337 farms show llamas producing a stunning success rate as livestock protectors: goat herds - 89% ; poultry - 92%; sheep flocks - 93%; cattle herds - 100%
- Leicester County Council use Alpacas at Beacon Hill: contact Mick Moffatt - mmoffatt@leics.gov.uk
- See www.llamas.co.uk/Pages/livestockguards.htm for further info on using llamas as stock guardians



GUARD ALPACAS AT BEACON HILL, LEICESTERSHIRE

vi) Vegetation management

a) Open space and vistas

- If your site is open and with good views, animals can see dogs and people and vice versa, and thus they can avoid each other
- Avoid corners within fence lines where animals can become trapped by dogs and / or people
- Avoid pinch points where animals cannot avoid people and dogs; this is a particular problem on grazed coastal cliffs

KEEP SITES OPEN! IT HELPS DOGS AND LIVESTOCK SEE AND AVOID EACH OTHER



b) Tall vegetation

- Mammals like dogs tend to have a set route (humans are no different) and are often loathe to enter tall vegetation; use this to keep people and their dogs away from sensitive areas.

vii) Eutrophication

- Campaigns, advice, wardening and the provision of dog bins can help to mitigate against eutrophication
- Highlight the amount of faeces around car parks, for example using flags, coloured spray or 100's and 1,000's
- Exploit the tendency for dogs to urinate and defecate soon after their arrival at a site by creating "sacrificial areas" between car parks and site entry points where this is feasible

viii) Information

- Make sure you provide plenty of information and talk to people – tell them why you need dogs under control
- Be positive: welcome dog walkers and get to know them. If they know you they will be less likely to behave badly!
- Establish a dog walkers forum to encourage good behaviour and increase understanding, tolerance and communication between site users and management staff
- Run dog walker events to increase public understanding and remove any fears
- Provide a website and notice board for dog issues
- Provide facilities such as:
 - Dog parking areas (around visitor centres)
 - Dog taps and dog drinks
 - Partnership with a dog training company
 - On-site dog grooming
 - Dog wash
 - Partnership with dog rescue centre to "walk a dog and get healthy"
- Keep your own dogs under control
- Implement campaigns to promote responsible behaviour amongst dog owners and where they can find dog-friendly sites – be helpful not antagonistic!

**DOG STILES TO WELCOME DOGS**

(Image from: www.jacksonsfencing.co.uk)

3. Dogs and the law

3.1. Practices and byelaws:

- Dogs are considered to be a usual accompaniment and so allowed on rights of way
- Dogs are allowed on CRoW access land, subject to certain restrictions
- Many public access areas are subject to local byelaws that include rules affecting dogs. There are many pieces of legislation that allow local authorities and others (e.g. Forestry Commission, Ministry of Defence, National Trust) to introduce byelaws that affect specific areas of land. The legislation that provides the power to introduce byelaws will typically set limits on the purposes to which these byelaws can be used. Byelaws can be made to regulate behaviour associated with dogs in four ways:
 - Keeping dogs on leads
 - Keeping dogs on leads where disturbance is likely
 - Banning dogs (although these cannot be used on rights of way)
 - Requirement to prevent dog fouling

3.2. Statutory enactments:

- There is a variety of primary and secondary legislation that affect dog owners. These span over 50 years, and are likely to continue to change. The most relevant Acts affecting dogs in the countryside are:
 - Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953
 - Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
 - Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 and Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005
 - Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)

- Dogs must be kept on a short lead (< 2metres):
 - Between March and July
 - Whilst in the vicinity of livestock
 - In certain other situations to meet land management needs
 - 'Occasionally for the protection of wildlife

In Scotland the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 establishes rights of access that must be exercised responsibly. See www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

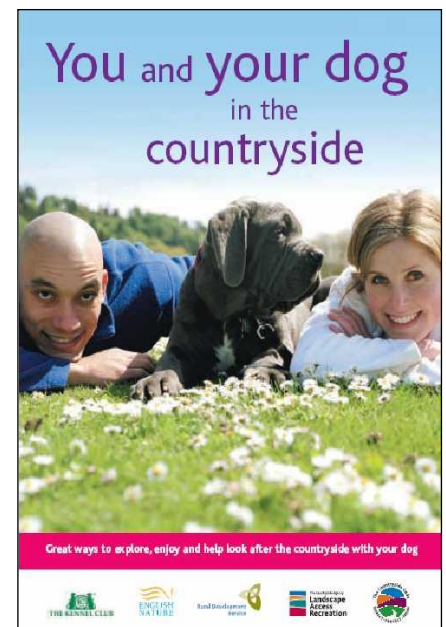
4. Further information

KEY REFERENCE: Edwards, Dr. V, Knight, S, (2006): Understanding the Psychology of Walkers with Dogs: new approaches to better management:

www.countryside.gov.uk/Images/Understanding%20the%20Psychology%20of%20Walkers%20with%20Dogs_tcm2-29976.pdf

- Assistance Dogs UK; Tel: 01844 348100, www.hearingdogs.org.uk/access-assistance-dogs.php
- Dorset Urban Heaths LIFE Project:
 - www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=337282
 - www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=340706
 - www.dorsetforyou.com/media/pdf/e/s/Callinleaflet.pdf

- Edwards, Dr. V, Knight, S, (2006): '*Understanding the Psychology of Walkers with Dogs: new approaches to better management*',
www.countryside.gov.uk/Images/Understanding%20the%20Psychology%20of%20Walkers%20with%20Dogs_tcm2-29976.pdf
- Epping Forest dog leaflet, download from:
www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/Corporation/living_environment/open_spaces/EF_recreation.htm
- International Sheep Dog Society: www.isds.org.uk
- Liley, D., Underhill-Day, J. & Squirrell, N. (2006): '*Dog-walkers on the Dorset Heaths - Analysis of questionnaire data collected by wardens on Dorset's Urban Heaths*', English Nature Research Report 713, www.naturalengland.org.uk
- Lock, J, Hearn, K: "*The aquatic dog: dogs and their impacts on waterbodies*"
- National Trust guidance:
 - www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-vh/w-visits/w-visits-activities/w-visits-activities-other/w-activities-other-dog_walking.htm
 - www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-vh/w-visits/w-visits-essential_info/w-visits-essential_info-dogs.htm
- New Forest dog walking leaflet: [www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/new-forest-dog-walking.pdf/\\$FILE/new-forest-dog-walking.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/new-forest-dog-walking.pdf/$FILE/new-forest-dog-walking.pdf)
- Rigg, R. (2001): '*Livestock guarding dogs: their current use world wide*', IUCN/SSC Canid Specialist Group Occasional Paper No 1 [online], www.canids.org/occasionalpapers/livestockguardingdog.pdf
- Somerset County Council dog leaflet, download from:
www.somerset.gov.uk/somerset/ete/rightsofway/dog/
- Sunderland, T. (2006): '*Managing dogs on wildlife sites*', CLM, Volume 4, Number 2, pp. 12 – 15
- Taylor, K., Anderson, P, Taylor, R, Longden, K and Fisher, P, (2005): '*Dogs, access and nature conservation*', English Nature Research Report 649, www.naturalengland.org.uk
- The Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors; Tel: 01386 751151,
www.apbc.org.uk
- The Countryside Code: www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk
- The Kennel Club: www.the-kennel-club.org.uk
- You, your dog and the countryside (leaflet) – download from:
www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk/things_to_do/dog_walking



Appendix 1 – Good practice

A. Extract from the Countryside Code

- By law, you must control your dog so that it does not disturb or scare farm animals or wildlife. You must keep your dog on a short lead on most areas of open country and common land between 1 March and 31 July, and at all times near farm animals
- You do not have to put your dog on a lead on public paths as long as it is under close control. But as a general rule, keep your dog on a lead if you cannot rely on its obedience. By law, farmers are entitled to destroy a dog that injures or worries their animals
- If a farm animal chases you and your dog, it is safer to let your dog off the lead – don't risk getting hurt by trying to protect it
- Take particular care that your dog doesn't scare sheep and lambs or wander where it might disturb birds that nest on the ground and other wildlife – eggs and young will soon die without protection from their parents
- Everyone knows how unpleasant dog mess is and it can cause infections – so always clean up after your dog and get rid of the mess responsibly. Also make sure your dog is wormed regularly

Source: Countryside Agency and Countryside Council for Wales (2004)

B. National Trust policy on dog walking and examples of good practice - Guiding principles:

1. The National Trust welcomes responsible dog owners. It does not consider it acceptable for owners to expect others to clear up after their dogs in car parks, play areas or on paths
2. The National Trust expects dog owners to keep their dogs under control, which on some sites will mean on a lead. It is not acceptable to allow dogs to jump up at or otherwise intimidate other visitors
3. The National Trust will continue to try to raise awareness in a variety of ways. It will if necessary seek prosecutions through legislation and its Byelaws, or in certain circumstances may ban dogs altogether

Examples of good practice

- Take every opportunity to raise the public's awareness about responsible dog ownership through on-site contact with owners, draw attention to excessive amounts of dog faeces, information (particularly the National Trust Guide for Dog Owners), press releases, voluntary wardens, articles in vets' surgeries and pet shops, school visits, etc
- Maintain contact with local dog walkers. Where practicable, establish a local dog-walkers forum to agree guidelines, zoning, patrolling rotas, etc. Consider any special controls required for people exercising many dogs at once
- Liaise with local authorities and other providers of land for dog walking to agree a common approach to management
- Provide more dog gates adjacent to stiles to assist access and minimise damage to fencing
- Liaise closely with tenant farmers and assist them, particularly at lambing time and the busier visitor months, with wardening, temporary notices and other management, monitor incidents
- Locate car parks so that dogs do not foul picnic and sitting areas
- Encourage dog owners to use poop scoops wherever practicable on intensively used sites
- Bins will not always solve the problem of indiscriminate fouling
- Use more seasonal explanatory 'dogs on leads' notices in respect of grazing livestock, deer parks, lambing, bird-nesting areas and other wildlife sanctuaries and beaches
- Identify some areas where dogs will not be allowed without a lead or at all
- Ensure adequate time and resources are allocated to wardening as problems and misunderstandings are most likely to arise where wardening presence is low

C. Teignbridge District Council's dog walker's code

We think that Teignbridge dog walkers are amongst the most considerate around! Dogs and their owners are very welcome on our sites, (please note that dog byelaws are in place at Dawlish Warren).

Please follow these simple guidelines.

1. Bag and bin your dog's mess, wherever you are - there are usually bins on site
2. Please bring your own dog mess bags - bags available on site are for emergency use only
3. If you can, train your dog to mess in your own garden - but always bring a bag 'in case'!
4. Don't bring very nervous, exuberant or 'touchy' dogs unless you are absolutely certain that you can control them! To help protect others from a frightening incident and protect you from legal action we recommend that you:
 - Put a choke chain on strong, exuberant dogs
 - Put a muzzle on very nervous or snappy dogs
5. Dog fights can be very frightening and owners who intervene are often badly hurt. A pepper pot can help stop a dog fight!
6. Keeping your dog on a lead in a 'Dogs on leads area' helps to:
 - Protect wildlife - especially water birds and ground nesting birds
 - Reduce dog mess - even very conscientious dog walkers may not notice that their dog has messed if it is walking behind them, or if they are talking to a friend!
 - Ensure that dogs are less exuberant - and therefore less likely to knock over children or frail people.
7. Don't let your dog yap/bark for long periods - it really can spoil other peoples' enjoyment
8. Join a dog training class if you have a young dog, a difficult dog or maybe a rescue dog. You will enjoy your dog's company more if you are confident that it is obedient
9. If you follow this Code of Practice, you will be encouraging responsible dog ownership in Teignbridge

D. Good practice guidance offered by CCW

Prevention is better than cure and there are various steps that can be taken to encourage responsible behaviour – such as putting up signs (see below) or talking to dog owners about what is good practice in dog control. If problems with users' dogs arise:

- Whenever possible, approach the owner of the dog that is causing problems to ask them to bring their dog under control. If necessary, report the owner to the police and ask them to investigate with a view to prosecution. Compensation for damage to livestock may also be claimed from the dog owner
- Ask the highway authority to make an order under Section 27 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 requiring dogs to be kept on leads on specific public rights of way, although these are difficult to enforce
- If an order is made, put up notices insisting 'Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times on this path'. Talk to the highway authority about steps that can be taken to enforce this
- If the authority is unwilling to make an order it is still permissible to put up notices asking owners to control their dogs, e.g. 'Please keep your dog on a lead near livestock' or stating 'Please keep your dog under close control'. Notices are more likely to be effective when they are positive, polite and offer an explanation; impacts on wildlife and livestock are not always obvious to dog owners
- Signs asking for dogs to be kept on leads between certain dates or at "lambing time", or in clearly defined areas, will be more effective than signs left in place all year

Source: Countryside Council for Wales 2005