

# WALKIES!

Your pocket access guide to England's countryside from the Kennel Club



**THE KENNEL CLUB**  
*Making a difference for dogs*

Where can I go? What can I do?

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

## WHERE YOU CAN GO

Walking your dog keeps both of you healthy and fit and there are lots of places you can go:

- 140,000 miles of public rights of way, shown in green on Ordnance Survey Explorer maps: [www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk)
- Thousands of acres of open access land: [www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk](http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk)
- 2.5 million acres of Forestry Commission land: [www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk)
- Many country parks, permissive paths, beaches and National Trust land

For more information visit the websites or ask your local tourist information centre and countryside rangers.

Open for Dogs is the Kennel Club's campaign to make public places more accessible for dogs and their owners. The website, powered by Dog Friendly, lists over 10,000 dog friendly places across the UK and Europe.

Register at: [www.openfordogs.org.uk](http://www.openfordogs.org.uk) to search for:

- Dog days out
- Where to stay
- Pubs to visit
- High Street businesses



## SAFE & HAPPY WALKS

Most countryside walks are trouble free - you can minimise injuries and unpleasant confrontations by:

- always keeping your dog in sight and using a lead if you don't have a reliable recall
- preventing your dog from approaching wildlife and farm animals
- keeping your dog out of crops like fruit, vegetables and cereals



visit: [www.thekennelclub.org.uk/kcdog](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/kcdog)  
email: [kcdog@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:kcdog@thekennelclub.org.uk)

- picking up after your dog wherever you are
- always putting bagged poo in any bin
- stopping your dog from approaching other people, cyclists or horse riders, unless it's OK by them

Please follow this advice to prevent dog bans in even more places. If you don't, you may end up in court, and your dog could be injured, lost or shot.

## DOWN ON THE FARM

Every year a few walkers and their dogs are killed or seriously injured by cattle. Every year too, sheep and other farm animals suffer painful deaths and injuries from pet dogs.

Minimise danger and injury by:

- always keeping your dog on a short lead where farm animals are present
- not walking between cows and their calves; go around them if you can



- being aware of where cattle are; they are naturally inquisitive and may follow you
- walking steadily and quietly past cattle; do not run
- finding a different route around cattle if you can
- reporting problems to the local council

If you think you are about to be injured by cattle, unclip the lead so you and your dog can get away separately

## RESPECTING RESTRICTIONS

There are places and times where you must keep your dog on a lead or avoid altogether - signs and rangers will tell you where.

These can include:

- childrens' playgrounds, parks, gardens and picnic areas
- roads, car parks and places where there are lots of people
- land where protected animals and birds live and raise their young on the ground, especially between 1 March and 31 July

If you think a restriction is excessive or unlawful (eg banning dogs from public rights of way) please contact **KC Dog** and we'll investigate - see 'reporting problems' overleaf



Stick a picture of your dog here to show to others if lost



CONTACT NUMBERS

Vet: .....

Microchip no: .....

Dog Warden: .....

Petlog: **0844 4633 999**

Save these numbers to your mobile

Complete this section with your dog's details

## TRAINING TIPS

Well-trained dogs have more fun, freedom and are less likely to be lost or injured. These tips will help:

- regularly recall and reward your dog during walks, so it learns that coming back is fun and doesn't always mean going home or back on the lead
- a dog whistle gets your pet's attention. Train your dog to associate hearing it with getting a special treat if it comes to you
- never reprimand your dog if it doesn't come back straight away. Learn how to train a better recall instead
- join a Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme training club in your area. To find your local training club visit: [www.findadogclub.org.uk](http://www.findadogclub.org.uk)



*Please follow this advice to prevent dog bans in even more places. If you don't, you may end up in court, and your dog could be injured, lost or, at worst, shot.*



## LOST YOUR DOG?

Ensuring your dog is always in sight, well-trained and microchipped is the best way to avoid the trauma of losing it. If your dog is microchipped, regularly update your records with the database so they can get hold of you – where ever you are.

But if the worst happens:

- If your dog is microchipped, call **Petlog** immediately **0844 4633 999**
- Search the area and leave details with as many people as possible
- Call local vets and dog wardens
- Visit lost pet websites

- Visit local animal welfare and rescue centres. Look in each enclosure; records can be inaccurate
- Put up posters locally and in pet shops, vets, stores and post offices
- Visit your neighbours
- Call local radio stations

For more information on compulsory microchipping please visit: [www.petlog.org.uk](http://www.petlog.org.uk)



## HEALTH TIPS AND FIRST AID

Always look out for hazards such as:

- **cliff tops** - dogs do fall off and die each year, so keep them well away from the edge
- **heatstroke** - ensure your dog can drink clean water during walks, especially on hot days
- **adders** - if your dog is bitten, keep it calm and call your vet. Leave the wound alone
- **sticks** - dogs are killed and seriously injured when catching sticks; throw a safe dog toy instead
- **ticks** - check your dog daily for these pea-sized parasites that spread serious diseases, especially where sheep and deer live. Your vet will show you how to remove them safely
- keep your dog's vaccinations and worming up to date

To find a vet when away from home, visit: [www.rcvs.org.uk](http://www.rcvs.org.uk)



## REPORTING PROBLEMS

Most local councils and landowners respect the law and welcome responsible dog owners.

But a minority do act unlawfully or unfairly by:

- imposing excessive or misleading restrictions on dog owners

If you have concerns about countryside access, contact your local council and KC Dog Scheme.

The Kennel Club's KC Dog Scheme can help too - tel 020 7518 1020

visit: [www.thekennelclub.org.uk/kcdog](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/kcdog)  
email: [kcdog@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:kcdog@thekennelclub.org.uk)

- erecting off-putting or confusing signs
- neglecting path surfaces, signposts, gates and stiles
- making public paths and tracks harder to use
- threatening path users

## PROTECTING YOUR ENVIRONMENT

Keeping your eyes peeled when walking your dog helps to keep the countryside enjoyable and safe.

Quickly report unusual activity or incidents:

- Pollution and fly-tipping - call the Environment Agency: **0800 80 70 60**
- Rural crime - call Crimestoppers anonymously: **0800 555 111**
- Illegal poisoning of wildlife - call the Wildlife Incident Investigation Team: **0800 321 600**
- Anti-terrorist hotline: **0800 789 321**
- Forest and heathland fires - call: **999**

STAY SAFE - DON'T PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER

The Kennel Club publishes a wide range of information guides to help you and your dog have a happy life together - visit [www.thekennelclub.org.uk](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk) or call **0844 4633 980**



**THE KENNEL CLUB**

The Kennel Club, 1-5 Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London W1J 8AB