

NORWICH RAMBLERS WALKING WITH DOGS

Whilst our group would love to say that well behaved dogs under control are always welcome on our walks, we are mindful that some walks are not suitable for dogs. The Ramblers are very conscious of the need for dogs to be kept under control, particularly around livestock and provide advice to this effect on the Ramblers website <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking-hub/how-enjoy-great-dog-walks-responsibly> We also take into account that walking in a group with dogs is not the same as taking a dog for a walk; many people love dogs, but there are others who prefer to avoid them, besides the risk of, for example, tripping.

At Norwich Ramblers we have considered the needs of the walking group in developing this policy, to ensure the safety of the walkers. This is a general policy for taking dogs on the Norwich Ramblers **walks programme** as well as our **walking trips away**. However, the Ramblers have devolved the final decision on whether dogs (other than Registered Assistance Dogs) are permitted or not on a Ramblers walk to individual walk leaders, who will know the walk they are leading and the potential hazards.

This policy has been written to accommodate the needs of all as a group, taking effect from July 2023, to be reviewed by the Norwich Committee in July 2024.

We would be happy for dog enthusiasts to plan and lead dog-friendly walks. Please contact our walks programme manager Gerald Brooker ramblersgeraldb@hotmail.com

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NORWICH RAMBLERS DOG POLICY

1. DOGS MUST BE KEPT ON A SHORT LEAD AND UNDER CLOSE CONTROL AT ALL TIMES.
2. All “Registered Assistance Dogs” are welcome on the walks with their owner, in accordance with the Disability Act (2010). Please contact the walk leader/trip organiser to confirm that your assistance dog will be safe on that walk.
3. Please contact the leader to confirm that the walk will be suitable for your dog, as dogs are not all the same. Dogs must be able to negotiate stiles and other obstacles without the aid of others. Even if the walk is advertised as dog friendly, it doesn't mean that all stiles will have doggy gates on them.
4. We ask that owners be mindful of the group as a whole and take care to ensure that their dog is not a trip hazard nor a nuisance to others.
5. Owners must come prepared to bag and bin their dog's poo and take responsibility for its appropriate disposal.
6. All dog owners are responsible for their dogs at all times and accept that any incident caused by the dog will be entirely the responsibility of the owner.

When a group walk or walking trip away is “dog friendly”, the leader/trip organisers will have stated it in the walks/trip programme as “**DOG FRIENDLY ON SHORT LEAD**”. If the walk or trip away is not suitable for dogs because the safety of the group or dogs could be compromised, it will be stated as “**REGISTERED ASSISTANCE DOGS ONLY**”.