

Dog Walking Policy



At Sitting Pets, we are committed to ensuring that every walk is a fun, safe and positive experience for all dogs in our care. This policy outlines the requirements for our dog walking service, ensuring that both dogs and walkers are set up for success. Owners that book a service with us are expected to read and adhere to the conditions in this policy.

1. Restricted Breeds

- 1.1 For the safety of our team and the public, we do not walk dogs that are listed as prohibited under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 and the Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Act 1997 (or as amended), or any dogs that are a mix of these breeds. The breeds currently banned under this legislation include: American Bully XL, Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentino and Fila Brasileiro.
- 1.2 It is the responsibility of the Owner to ensure their dog does not fall under these restrictions when booking our services. If it is found that a dog is a prohibited breed or a mix of one, we reserve the right to refuse or immediately discontinue the service.

2. Health and Safety Requirements

- 2.1 Vaccinations: All dogs must be up to date on their vaccinations, including Leptospirosis, Hepatitis, distemper and parvovirus.
- 2.2 Flea, Tick and Worm Prevention: It is the owner's responsibility to ensure their dog is on a regular flea and tick prevention program, in addition to a de-wormer prevention program. For treatment following an active infestation, we are unable to walk dogs for 48 hours after a flea treatment, 24 hours following tick treatment and 14 days following a de-worming treatment.
- 2.3 Illness and Injury: We are unable to accept any dog that is unwell, recovering from an infectious illness, or showing signs of illness (e.g. coughing, vomiting or diarrhoea). If a dog is already in our care and showing symptoms, we will end their walk and return them to their home address. We will notify the owner, advising them of symptoms observed. Dogs must be symptom free (of illness) for at least 48 hours before returning to solo or group walks.
- 2.4 Microchip: It is a legal requirement for dogs to be micro-chipped.
- 2.5 Heat and Cold Safety: Walks may be adjusted during extreme weather conditions to ensure your dog's safety. This may include shortening walks or avoiding walks in extreme heat, thunderstorms, or very cold conditions.

3. Behaviour and Socialisation

- 3.1 Friendly and Social Dogs: We can only accept dogs onto group walks that are friendly, social and well behaved around people and other dogs. All dogs must be able to enjoy their time in the company of other dogs without showing aggression, dominance, possessiveness, mounting, humping or excessive excitement.
- 3.2 Behavioural Evaluation: Before accepting any dog for group walks, we may conduct a short assessment to ensure they are a good fit. This includes assessing their ability to walk on a lead, their temperament around other dogs, and overall behaviour.
- 3.3 Dominance and Possessiveness: Dogs that are overly dominant, or have possessive behaviours (over toys, people, or other dogs) will not be accepted for group walks. We want to create a safe environment for all dogs in our care.
- 3.4 We are unable to accept dogs that display aggression or have aggressive tendencies or traits. These can include but not limited to baring of teeth, growling, snarling or snapping.

4. Unneutered Male and Female Dogs

- 4.1 Unneutered Dogs: We accept unneutered male and female dogs, but their behaviour around other dogs must be positive. Any signs of dominance, aggression, or inappropriate behaviour (e.g. excessive marking, humping) will result in the need for solo walks.
- 4.2 Bitches in Season: For safety reasons, female dogs in season will not be allowed on group walks. We can arrange solo walks but these will be on-lead only.

5. Walking Options

- 5.1 Group Walks: Group walks are available for dogs that are friendly, social and enjoy the company of others. These walks are perfect for dogs that thrive on companionship and exercise with other dogs. We never walk more than 4 dogs at a time to ensure safety and personal attention.
- 5.2 Solo Walks: If your dog prefers to be on their own or does not meet the behaviour criteria for group walks, solo walks are available. Solo walks are a great option for dogs with specific needs or those that need more focused attention.

6. Equipment

- 6.1 Collars and Harnesses: All dogs must have properly fitted collars or harnesses. We are committed to the welfare and safety of all dogs in our care, and our ethos is to ensure a positive experience using humane and safe equipment. We therefore will not accept dogs where owners use equipment that is considered controversial such as choke chain, and prong or shock collars.
- 6.2 Leads: A sturdy lead must be provided for your dog. Owners must be comfortable with their dog being placed onto one of our double or triple leads, as this ensure better control management during walks.
- 6.3 Identification: It is a legal requirement for dogs to wear an ID tag with their Owner's contact information during walks.
- 6.4 Coats: We walk in all weather; rain or shine! To ensure the comfort of your dog, please provide a coat on cold winter days, or waterproof jacket for those wetter days.
- 6.5 Towels: A spare dog towel should be left just inside your door at home for towelling off after muddy or rainy walks.

7. General

- 7.1 Depending on our rota and your location, your dog will be picked up either on foot or by car. All vehicles are fully insured and fitted with secure dog harnesses designed for travel.