

Responsible Dog Ownership

The vast majority of dog owners in Leeds are responsible, clean up after their dogs and keep them under proper control. There are a minority of irresponsible dog owners that create significant problems.

Leeds City Council have a range of powers to take action to deal with irresponsible dog owners. These are known as Public Spaces Protection Orders (formerly Dog Control Orders).

The Orders are as follows:

1. Dog Fouling

Failure to clear up after a dog is an offence and you will be fined or prosecuted.

This Order applies to any land within the area administered by the council which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access either with or without payment.

2. Means To Pick Up Dog Faeces

A person in control of a dog must carry an appropriate means to pick up dog faeces such as a poop scoop bag, disposable bag or other suitable container for the disposal of dog faeces.



3. Keeping Dogs on Leads At All Times

All dogs must be kept under control at all times to minimise the risk of accidents. An Order is in place requiring that on certain specified land dogs should be on a lead at all times. This Order applies to all footpaths and verges adjacent to carriageways within the Leeds City Council district. This is to prevent dogs running into the road which can cause traffic accidents.

The Order also applies to cemeteries and crematoria. This is because dogs can cause considerable anguish to visitors at an already distressing time, especially if creating a disturbance or fouling.

The Middleton bike hub, some council owned golf courses and ornamental gardens are also subject to dogs on leads restrictions.



4. The Dogs On Leads by Direction

An authorised officer can require you to put and keep a dog on a lead if restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent a nuisance or behaviour by the dog likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to any other person or animal.

5. Dog Exclusion Areas

Dogs are excluded from children's play areas, tennis courts, remembrance gardens, some wildlife gardens and many school grounds (where the school has asked to be included). The Order is in place to prevent a dog causing damage or disturbance even when under close control.

6. Maximum Number Of Dogs To Be Walked At A Given Time

At any one time an individual is not permitted to walk more than four dogs. However, professional dog walkers, with the appropriate insurance, can walk up to six dogs provided that these dogs are not walked with or alongside any other dogs.

Professional dog walkers are still subject to all of the Orders that are in place and should any number of dogs be out of control or causing a nuisance, prosecution would be sought regardless of professional status.

Any professional dog walker wishing to walk with other dogs and their walkers is considered to be an individual (i.e. can walk a maximum of 4 dogs each) whilst ensuring all dogs remain under full control.

Land Covered By Public Spaces Protection Orders

This applies to any land within the Leeds area which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access either with or without payment.



The Penalty

Failure to comply with any of the Orders is an offence for which you may be prosecuted with a maximum fine of £1,000.

Alternatively a Fixed Penalty Notice of £100 may be given.

Please be aware that offences listed do not apply to registered blind persons or to persons who rely on an assistance dog trained by Dogs for the Disabled, support dogs or Canine Partners for Independence with a disability affecting mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects.

If you have any questions about the information in this leaflet or would like professional advice please telephone Leeds City Council Corporate Call Centre 0113 222 4406 or email environmental.action@leeds.gov.uk



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Further information and copies of this leaflet can be found on the council's website www.leeds.gov.uk



Useful Numbers

To report a lost or found dog or to report dog control or dog fouling issues
Tel: 0113 222 4406

Leeds Dog Trust: Tel: 0113 281 4920

RSPCA Leeds, Wakefield and District branch Tel: 0113 253 6952

What you need to know

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