

## Dogs in parks

Wandsworth Council has a borough-wide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in place from the 15 October 2020 to cover alcohol related anti-social behaviour, Novel Psychoactive Substances and dog control.

We welcome responsible dog owners and their pets into our parks and open spaces.

However, in some areas we ask you to keep your dog on a lead. We also ask you not to take dogs into the fenced children's play areas or onto bowling greens, cricket wickets and other sports pitches.

Please follow these guidelines when visiting Wandsworth's parks and open spaces with your dog:

- clear up immediately after your dog if it fouls
- make sure your dog wears a collar with your name and address on it - this is a legal requirement under the Control of Dogs Order (see below)
- keep your dog under proper control – remember, not everyone likes your dog as much as you do!

The parks police service will enforce relevant legislation to cover irresponsible dog ownership, dog fouling, dangerous dogs and stray dogs.

### Responsible dog ownership

We hope that people will show responsible dog ownership while within the parks and open spaces of Wandsworth.

The Control of Dogs Order 1992 states that the owner of a dog or the person in charge of a dog that is not wearing a collar in a public place shall be guilty of an offence against the Animal Health Act 1981. Dogs must wear a tag embossed with the name, address and telephone number of its owner.

Dog control in all public areas, including public highways and pavements and parks, commons, open spaces and cemeteries

- **Fouling of land by dogs** - an offence is committed when the person in charge of a dog fails to remove faeces deposited by the dog. This will apply borough wide.
- **Areas where dogs are required to be on leads** - an offence is committed when the person in charge of a dog fails to keep the dog on a lead. This will apply on all public highways including pavements, tree bases, grass verges, grass amenity areas adjacent to highways and road gutters, and will also apply to the car parks and gardens around the Town Hall, cemeteries, certain small parks and open spaces and specific areas within parks and open spaces such as car parks and café outdoor eating areas.
- **The requirement for a dog to be put on a lead at the direction of an authorised person** - an offence is committed when the person in charge of a dog fails to put and keep the dog on a lead when instructed to do so by a

Parks Police or Dog Control Officer or other authorised person. Enforcement in this area will be both pragmatic and appropriate.

- **The exclusion of dogs from specified areas** - an offence is committed when the person in charge of a dog takes it onto or permits it to enter or remain in an area where dogs are excluded. This will apply to the grounds around the Leisure Sports centres, laying fields, certain small parks and open spaces and to children's playgrounds, sports facilities, lakes, ponds, water features within parks and open spaces.
- **The maximum number of dogs that an individual may take onto specified areas** - it will be an offence to take more than 4 dogs at any one time into the areas covered by the PSPO with the exception of licensed multiple dog walkers in certain parks and open spaces.

### **Dog fouling**

Apart from being very unpleasant, dog mess can be a health hazard. The eggs of the parasite *Toxocara canis*, often found in dog mess, can remain in the ground long after the mess has decayed. They may then be picked up, perhaps by children during play, and be transferred from hand to mouth. At worst this can result in blindness.

### **Dangerous dogs**

Dangerous dogs are the responsibility of the police but please report any incidents to the parks police team as well as the police.