

## **Code of Conduct for Commercial Dog Walkers**

By subscribing to the following code of conduct, professional walkers can minimise this impact, set a positive example to other dog walkers and deliver a safe and quality service for their clients.

Registered Commercial dog walkers acting in the Borough of Swindon agree to:

Not walk any more than 4 dogs at any one time unless on private secure land.

Ensure they have suitable and sufficient public liability insurance (minimum £5million cover).

Walk independently of each other. Contact with others is permissible but only a maximum of 2 dogs in total are to be allowed off lead when walking with others.

Children under the age of 10 should not accompany commercial dog walks

Accurate records should be kept of dogs they are responsible for including signed permission for dogs to be allowed off lead

Be respectful of other park users and their feelings towards dogs.

Quiet parks, or quiet areas within parks, should be used over busy parks and spaces near children's play areas. Parks with sensitive wildlife areas should be avoided as well as care taken to not disturb nesting birds and other wildlife.

Have a good knowledge of dog behaviour and reliable skills in training and handling dogs. The Council encourages the use of positive reinforcement methods as universally endorsed by behaviourists, charities and veterinarians

Have a certificate in animal first aid. It is recommended that this be a practical course and a first aid kit should be carried on walks.

Abide by all dog related legislation. Further information is available from Swindon Borough Council.

Dogs should be suitably secured and transported in a well ventilated vehicle fit for purpose. All dogs should be walked away from and returned to the vehicle on a lead Extra care should be taken when arriving and leaving parks and greenspace to minimise issues for other users.