

COVID-19 Dog Walking



Fact Sheet

If you are walking a dog for an individual because they are unable to do so due to self-isolation, shielding or key worker commitments, please consider some good practice guidelines:

- If you are volunteering for a group, check that your insurance covers dog walking in case anything goes wrong.
- Wash your hands before leaving your house and try not to touch anything before getting to the dog owner's house.
- Wherever possible try to maintain the guidelines around social distancing which will include deciding how you are going to collect the dog. You could ask the dog owner to put the dog in an enclosed space for you to collect for example.
- If you can, don't go into a person's home. If this is not possible, don't touch anything.
- Only walk dogs from one household at any one time, don't mix your dogs or anyone else's dogs.
- Use your own lead if you have one and keep the dog on the lead at all times, even if it is used to going off the lead. This will minimise the risk of the dog running off and interacting with other dogs and people that may spread the virus further. Wash the lead afterwards.
- Maintain a two metre distance between yourself and anyone else whilst walking the dog. Don't put the dog in your car, walk the dog around the streets or open areas where it lives.
- Wear gloves whilst in contact with the dog and try not to touch the dog or anything else wherever possible. Bin the gloves after returning the dog and wash your hands again.

