

# Keep your dog safe

It is an offence to allow a dog to chase or attack livestock, and your dog may itself be in danger from cattle or ponies especially those with young if they perceive a threat. If you feel threatened by cattle, let your dog off its lead so that you can escape quickly; allow your dog to look after itself.

Your dog should always be under control - remember that if your dog runs across a road and causes an accident you would be responsible, and of course your dog could be seriously hurt.

Ticks are a common risk in most countryside areas. They may attach themselves to people or dogs and they can carry Lyme disease. If you find one, carefully remove the whole tick with a tick remover and seek medical advice if you have any concerns.

Right - female tick shown about 10x larger than life.



In winter and early spring, controlled burning of heathland areas takes place. This prevents the growth of too much scrub and encourages new growth.



## Did you know?

In Tudor times the Rufus's Stirrup was used to measure the size of commoners' dogs. Small dogs which passed through were allowed, but larger dogs were only permitted if they had their toes cut off to prevent them from chasing deer.



MAP  
INSIDE

# Enjoy the New Forest with your dog

From September to March, you may come across the New Forest Hounds and New Forest Beagles. Their dogs are usually just interested in tracking the artificial scent; however do be aware you may lose control of your dog if it feels intimidated or if it decides to run off and join in the chase.



Adders live in many of the open areas of the New Forest and can be found throughout the spring and summer. If your dog is bitten, get them to a vet quickly for treatment.

Left - Adder sunbathing



We discourage 'dog dipping' in the Forest's mires, ponds and rivers – it can pose a risk of infection to dogs and can cause damage to the banks and wetland plants.



Love dogs Love the Forest

# Enjoying the New Forest with your dog

With so many paths and tracks available through the Forest, it's a great place to enjoy fresh air and exercise with your dog.

Remember that not everyone loves dogs. There are also free-ranging ponies and farm animals, wildlife such as deer and rare birds, and a few potential hazards (including adders and ticks) to be aware of.

We've produced this guide to help you walk your dog safely and responsibly while helping preserve the Forest's unique character and ensuring everyone's enjoyment.



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## Did you know?

In World War I, a training school was set up in the New Forest where dogs were trained to carry messages across difficult and dangerous terrain between the trenches.

Right - The kennels in Matley Woods War Dogs Training School, Lyndhurst.



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The Forest is used today as a venue for training service dogs such as the Hampshire Search and Rescue Dogs.

Right - Hampshire Search and Rescue Dog- Kai-training in the New Forest with his owner and handler.



## Did you know?

Ancient Forest law strictly regulated who could own different types of dogs in the Forest. Lesser land owners and commoners risked being imprisoned for owning hunting dogs.



Follow the New Forest Dog Walking Code and **show you care** by displaying one of our window stickers.



If you are looking for a professional dog walker, please ask if they follow the code.

## Useful contacts:

### New Forest Dogs Emergency Hotlines

**POLICE** (dangerous dogs, e.g. chasing or attacking people, wildlife or livestock)

999 (emergency)  
101 (non-emergency)

**DOG WARDENS**  
(lost, stray and out of control dogs)

New Forest District Council  
023 8028 5411 (office hours)  
023 8028 5202 (out of office hours)



### WALK RESPONSIBLY: FOLLOW THE CODE

#### Keep the National Park clean

- Always pick up after your dog, especially where people walk, play, park and picnic
- Take bagged dog waste home, or use a litter or dog bin

#### Be considerate

- Keep dogs away from picnics, horse riders and cyclists
- Prevent excessive barking
- Show respect for other dogs and walkers

#### Stay safe and control your dog

- Keep your dog close by and in sight – if necessary use a lead
- Ensure your dog does not approach or chase livestock, deer or other wildlife
- Keep your dog to the main tracks when birds are nesting (March – July)
- On public rights of way (e.g. through farmland) dogs should be kept on the path



[www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/dogs-code](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/dogs-code)

We have produced these credit card sized cards – so you can keep the New Forest emergency hotline numbers with you.

### New Forest National Park Authority

Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road,  
Lymington SO41 9ZG

Telephone: 01590 646600

[enquiries@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@newforestnpa.gov.uk)

[www.newforestnpa.gov.uk](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk)



newforestnpa



# New Forest Dog Walking Code

Welcome to the New Forest; a beautiful, tranquil and environmentally sensitive place enjoyed by local residents and visitors alike. To help everyone enjoy the Forest, local people and organisations have agreed this code of practice for dog walking throughout the National Park.

Look out for the paw prints in this leaflet- they highlight sections of the code.



If you drive into the Forest, check for seasonal car park closures. Please obey signs about local restrictions and avoid parking on road verges or in gateways.



## Dogs welcome!

The New Forest has many dog friendly places at which you can stay, visit or eat. Check for signs saying "dogs welcome" and please remain considerate of other users.



## Help protect wildlife

In the New Forest many rare birds nest on or near the ground – even in woodland. They are particularly susceptible to disturbance by people and dogs – they fly off, leaving eggs or chicks vulnerable to chilling or predation by crows, or the adult birds simply give up trying to breed.

Coastal areas are important for breeding, feeding and roosting ducks, waders and other birds. At any time of year, these birds can be badly affected if they are 'hounded' from one spot to another.



Your dog should never be allowed to chase deer; pregnant females and young fawns are particularly vulnerable in spring and early summer and deer chased onto a road can cause a serious traffic accident. On Forestry Commission Crown Land, chasing deer is an offence against the byelaws and intentional hunting of deer is a criminal offence under the Hunting Act 2004.



## Stay safe and keep dogs under effective control

- Wherever you are in the New Forest, you must ensure that your dog does not chase or attack livestock, deer or any other wildlife. Keep your dog close to you and in sight at all times - if necessary use a lead
- Keep your dog to the main tracks when birds are nesting on the ground (usually March - July)
- Throughout the year, prevent your dog from disturbing birds on the coast
- Keep well away from any work taking place and observe warning signage
- Dogs must be under close control when on a public right of way (for example through farmland); keep them on the path and do not allow them to stray onto adjacent land.



## Beaches

If you enjoy taking your dog along the coast, make sure you know which ones are dog friendly, if they have seasonal restrictions or if you need to keep your dog on a lead.



## Be considerate to other Forest users

- Keep your dog from jumping up at or approaching other people, especially children
- Keep dogs away from picnics, horse riders and cyclists, and prevent excessive barking
- Show respect for other dogs (especially timid ones); if an approaching dog is on a lead, put yours on a lead too
- Be especially careful to keep groups of dogs under effective control
- Consider moving aside to let other walkers, cyclists and horse riders past
- If you cannot reliably and quickly call your dog back to you and away from people or other dogs, please keep it on a lead.

## Help keep the National Park clean

- Pick up after your dog wherever you are, especially where people walk, play, park or picnic
- Put bagged dog poo in a dog bin or litter bin, or take it home.



**Did you know?**  
It is estimated that there are around 25,000 dog walks in the Forest every day!

