



Scottish Outdoor Access Code

For more information or if you're having access problems, please get in touch with your local authority or national park authority. Relevant contact details can be found at www.outdooraccess-scotland.com. If you would like a copy of the full Code, phone **Scottish Natural Heritage on 01738 444177** or e-mail pubs@snh.gov.uk.

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Don't take your dog into a field where there are lambs, calves and other young animals.

Dogs can worry young farm animals and cows can be aggressive when protecting their calves. Go into a neighbouring field or onto land next to it. In more open country, keep your dog on a short lead if there are lambs around, and keep your distance from them.



Don't take your dog into a field of vegetables and fruit (unless you're on a clear path).



The main risk in these fields is diseases in dog faeces being transmitted to people. If there's a clear path, such as a core path or a right of way, follow this but keep your dog to the path. In all other cases, it's best to go into a neighbouring field or onto the land next to it.

What real harm can my dog do by chasing farm animals?

Your dog could, for example, cause a pregnant ewe to miscarry. It could also cause a newborn lamb to become separated from its mother before they've bonded, resulting in the mother rejecting the lamb once it's returned. Injury and distress can be caused to older lambs and to other farm animals too, for example disturbed cattle could damage and break through fences causing injury to themselves.



Did you know?

Under the Animals (Scotland) Act 1987, a farmer, in some cases, has the right to shoot your dog if it is worrying animals.



Shared responsibility.

Land managers such as farmers also have a responsibility to respect access rights when managing their land.

Always clean up after your dog.

Dog faeces can carry diseases that can affect humans, farm animals and wildlife. Infected dog waste left on grazing land can result in the death of sheep, and abortion in cattle.

The highest risks are in fields of cattle, sheep and other animals, in fields where fruit and vegetables are growing, and in public open places where people can come into direct contact with dog faeces, such as sports pitches, playing fields, golf courses, play areas, along paths and tracks, and along riverbanks and loch shores.

If your dog fouls, always bag it and bin it or take it away with you. Any public litter bin will do.



Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

- take responsibility for your own actions
- respect the interests of other people
- care for the environment



KNOW THE CODE
BEFORE YOU GO

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DON'T GET YOUR DOG A BAD NAME.



Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

Dog Owners

Jess the dog explains what the **Scottish Outdoor Access Code** means for you and your dog



KNOW THE CODE
BEFORE YOU GO

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Enjoy your walk

Scotland's outdoors is a great place for dogs and their owners. But please remember you and your dog share the outdoors with others. You have the right to be on most land for recreation providing you act responsibly (as set out in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code).

Dogs that aren't kept under proper control are a real concern for land managers and visitors to the countryside. Dogs can worry and injure farm animals, disturb wildlife and can scare other people. Dog waste also spreads diseases, especially if the dogs haven't been regularly wormed.

This leaflet sets out your main responsibilities when walking your dog and advises on what proper control is in everyday situations.

Follow the advice in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, and don't get **your dog** a bad name.



TAKE JESS'S ADVICE.
DON'T GET **YOUR DOG**
A BAD NAME.

Keep your dog on a short lead or close at heel in; **A. Fields where there are cows and horses.**

Cows can be frightened by dogs and may react aggressively or panic, causing damage to themselves or property, or be dangerous to the dog owner and the dog. Where possible, choose a route that avoids taking your dog into fields with cows or horses. If you do need to go into such a field, keep as far as possible from the animals and keep your dog on a short lead or close at heel. If farm animals react aggressively and move towards you, keep calm, let your dog go and take the shortest, safest route out of the field. Both you and your dog will be far safer if you allow your dog to escape on its own.



Did you know?

A short lead is two metres or less.



B. Fields where there are sheep.

Whenever possible it's best to avoid going near sheep. Dogs can cause unnecessary worry that may contribute to the premature death of sheep as well as any unborn lambs. If you need to go into a field of sheep, keep your dog on a short lead or close at heel and keep your distance from the animals. In more open country, when there are sheep around, keep your dog close at heel and keep your distance from them. This advice also applies to other farm animals.



C. Areas where ground-nesting birds are breeding and rearing their young.

You can reduce the chance of your dog disturbing birds that nest on the ground during the breeding season - usually from April to July - by keeping your dog on a short lead or close at heel in areas where these birds are most likely to be found. These areas include moorland, forests, grassland, loch shores and the seashore. Some field margins can be managed for wildlife and for encouraging game birds so take care by keeping dogs on a short lead or close at heel. Don't linger if birds become significantly disturbed by your presence.



D. Reservoirs and stream intakes.

Some reservoirs and streams are used for public water supply. If there are intakes nearby, keep your dog out of the water.



E. Recreational areas and other public places.



Don't allow your dog to run onto sports pitches, playing fields or play areas when these are in use. In places where other people are around, particularly children, keeping your dog close at heel or on a short lead will help to avoid alarming them.



JESS'S HANDY HINTS

FARM ANIMALS. Never let your dog worry or attack farm animals. Don't take your dog into fields with young farm animals.

SAFETY AROUND CATTLE. Cattle can act aggressively. Keep yourself and your dog at a safe distance and if necessary let your dog go so that you can both seek safety.

PLANTED FIELDS. Don't take your dog into fruit and vegetable fields unless there is a clear path such as a core path or right of way.

GROUND-NESTING BIRDS. During the breeding season (April - July) keep your dog on a short lead or close at heel in areas such as moorland, forests, grasslands, loch shores and the seashore.

PUBLIC PLACES. Keep your dog close at heel and avoid causing concern to others.

DOG WASTE. Always bag it and bin it, any public litter bin will do.

