

## Taking the Lead

# Advice and useful links

### Linked resources:

- Managing access with dogs to reduce impacts on land management
- Information sheets
- Case studies

Find them at:  
[outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://outdooraccess-scotland.com)

### Integrating public access with land management

Guidance can be found in the publication [Public access and land management](#).

### Responsible dog walking

In partnership with NFU Scotland, Scottish Land & Estates, the Scottish Kennel Club, the Kennel Club and the Scottish Canine Consultative Council, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) have produced a range of Scottish Outdoor Access Code (Access Code) [resources for dog walkers](#) at [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com). Leaflets, editable posters and other resources can be downloaded. For a supply of leaflets to hand out to dog walkers, contact your [local access officer](#) or Publications at SNH on 01738 458530 or by email [pubs@snh.gov.uk](mailto:pubs@snh.gov.uk).

### Signs

General guidance for farmers and land managers is available at [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com) and includes a series of [signs](#) that can be edited to include site specific information and then printed for local use. Members of Scottish Land & Estates can download [Access Information Sheet 9: Outdoor Access Signage](#).

### Cattle and dogs

Many farmers and crofters are understandably concerned about dog walkers being injured or killed by cattle. The Health and Safety Executive's Information Sheet no 17S [Cattle and Public Access in Scotland](#) summarises the legal and practical implications. A more detailed joint briefing note on legal responsibilities to the public in relation to cattle has been produced by NFU Scotland and Scottish Land & Estates: [Access Information Sheet 20 "Outdoor Access in Fields with Cattle: Guidance for Land Managers"](#). This and [Access Information Sheet 2 "Public Access and Liability in Scotland"](#) can both be downloaded for free by members of both organisations.

Examples of appropriate signs to alert members of the public to the risks of walking with dogs near cattle are included in the [Taking the Lead](#) Information Sheet 2 "Dealing with dog-related access issues using signs".

### **Deer farming and dogs**

Deer farming is becoming more common in Scotland. The Access Code does not give any specific guidance on entering enclosed fields of deer, but like all animals, females are protective of their young and stags can be aggressive during the autumn rut. The Health and Safety Executive [Agriculture Information Sheet No 7 \(rev\) Deer Farming](#) gives advice on managing deer and public access.

### **Livestock health and dogs**

Posters for dog owners and briefing notes for access authorities which provide information on reducing the risk of spreading disease in livestock from dog faeces can be downloaded from the [dog walking promotional campaigns](#) pages of [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com).

### **Dog fouling campaigns**

[Clean Up Scotland](#), part of the Keep Scotland Beautiful charity, runs various campaigns, including one focusing on dog fouling.

[Green Dog Walkers](#) is a community based scheme that builds capacity amongst local dog owners to positively promote responsible dog walking, especially in relation to fouling.

### **Reducing disturbance to ground nesting birds**

The National Access Forum's guidance on "[Managing access with dogs in protected areas to safeguard breeding birds](#)" is equally relevant to many other sites.

### **Guidance on commercial dog walking**

Drawing on a series of workshops for commercial dog walkers organised as part of a partnership project with the Scottish Kennel Club, Kennel Club and Your Dog Magazine, Scottish Natural Heritage has produced guidance for access authorities on how to encourage commercial dog walkers to exercise dogs responsibly. "[Creating positive opportunities to engage with commercial dog walkers](#)" and the workshop report "[Commercial Dog Walkers in the Outdoors: Attitudes, engagement and opportunities](#)" are both free to download.

### **Legislation relating to access with dogs**

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code reflect and embody other relevant legislation relating to access with dogs in Scotland. The most relevant Acts are the [Dogs \(Protection of Livestock\) Act 1953](#), the [Animals \(Scotland\) Act 1987](#), the [Dog Fouling \(Scotland\) Act 2003](#) and [Control of Dogs \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#).

### **Advice**

For further help and advice on dog-related access issues, the first point of contact should be:

- Your [local authority or national park access officer](#) and/or local authority dog warden.

Other organisations which may be able to offer help and advice include:

- Scottish Canine Consultative Council Tel: 01389 755133
- The Scottish Kennel Club [www.scottishkennelclub.org](http://www.scottishkennelclub.org) Tel: 0131 665 3920
- The Kennel Club [www.thekennelclub.org.uk](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk) Tel: 020 7518 1020.