



For more information on the Scottish Outdoor Access Code:

or if you are having access problems; get in touch with your local authority or national park authority. If you would like a copy of the full Code or a copy of this leaflet in large print phone Scottish Natural Heritage (01738 444177) or e-mail pubs@snh.gov.uk [outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://outdooraccess-scotland.com)

**OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS:**

**Scottish Kennel Club**  
0131 665 3920  
[www.scottishkennelclub.org](http://www.scottishkennelclub.org)

**Scottish Canine Consultative Council**  
Community Dog Management Centre  
01389 755133

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**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.**

Do not 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 under close control or on a short lead will help to avoid alarming them.



**Always clean up after your dog in any public open place;**

Dog faeces can carry diseases that can affect humans, farm animals and wildlife. The highest risks are in fields of cattle, sheep and other animals, in fields where fruit



**YOUR DOG DOESN'T KNOW ANY BETTER. MAKE SURE YOU DO.**

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 in these sorts of places, pick up and remove the faeces and take them away with you.

**Did you know?...**

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



**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 have bonded, resulting in the mother rejecting the lamb once it is 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.

**Is there a legal definition of 'close control'?**

No. However, the Code defines 'under close control' to mean that your dog responds to your commands and is kept close at heel. If he can lie down or return to you on command, your dog would then be under close control. If you're not sure that your dog can do this the responsible thing is to keep him on a short lead.

**Did you know?...**

A short lead is two metres or less.



**Responsible behaviour by land managers.**

It is responsible behaviour by farmers and land managers not to allow a guard dog or working dog to alarm people, especially close to paths and tracks.

**YOUR DOG DOESN'T KNOW ANY BETTER. MAKE SURE YOU DO.**



**Dog Owners**

**What the Scottish Outdoor Access Code means for dog owners**



**KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO**  
SCOTTISH OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE [outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://outdooraccess-scotland.com)





## Enjoy your walk

### But remember you and your dog share the outdoors with others.

Scotland's outdoors is a great place for dogs and owners. Walking the dog is good for your health and quality of life, as well as providing the simple pleasure of just being out and about. Remember too, you now have the right to be on most land for recreation providing you act responsibly (as set out in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code).

However, dogs that aren't kept under proper control can be a real concern for some people, including many land managers and visitors to the countryside. Dogs can worry and injure farm animals, disturb wildlife and alarm other people. Farmers also have concerns about dogs spreading diseases, especially if they've not been regularly wormed.

In using your access rights, you must keep your dog under proper control. This leaflet sets out your main responsibilities as a dog owner and advises on what proper control is in everyday situations. Please read it carefully and do what it recommends. Because let's face it, as much as you love them, your dog is a bit of a daftie when it comes to understanding the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

### Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Whether you're in the outdoors or managing the outdoors, the key things are to:

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

Visit [outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://outdooraccess-scotland.com) or call your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.



YOUR DOG DOESN'T KNOW ANY BETTER.

MAKE SURE YOU DO.



### Do not 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.

For these reasons, don't take your dog into a field where there are lambs, calves or other young animals. 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.



### Do not take your dog into a field of vegetables and fruit (unless you are on a clear path);

The main risk in these fields is diseases in dog faeces being transmitted to people. If there is 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 is best to go into a neighbouring field or onto the land next to it.



### Keep your dog on a short lead or under close control 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 under close control. If cows react aggressively and move towards you, keep calm, let the dog go and take the shortest, safest route out of the field. This advice also applies to other farm animals.



### B. Fields where there are sheep.

If you need to go into a field of sheep, keep your dog on a short lead or under close control and keep your distance from the animals. In more open country, when there are sheep around keep your dog under close control 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 under close control 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 under close control. Don't linger if birds become significantly disturbed by your presence.



## POINTS TO HELP YOU TAKE THE LEAD

- Don't take your dog into fields where there are lambs, calves or other young animals.
- Don't take your dog into fields of vegetables or fruit unless you are on a clear path, such as a core path or right of way, but keep your dog to the path.
- Never let your dog worry or attack farm animals.
- If you go into a field of farm animals, keep as far as possible from the animals and keep your dog on a short lead or under close control.
- If cattle react aggressively and move towards you, keep calm, let the dog go and take the shortest, safest route out of the field.
- During the bird breeding season (usually April to July), keep your dog under close control or on a short lead in areas such as moorland, forests, grassland, loch shores and the seashore.
- Pick up and remove your dog's faeces if it fouls in a public open place or where there is a risk to farming interests.
- Some reservoirs and streams are used for public water supply. If there are intakes nearby, keep your dog out of the water.
- In recreation areas and other public places, avoid causing concern to others by keeping your dog under close control.