



Dogs on Our Nature Reserves and Farmland

Policy Statement

Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust welcomes considerate and responsible dog owners on all but the most sensitive of our nature reserves/farmland. However, we experience issues with dogs that are not on leads or under close control disturbing wildlife, especially during bird nesting season (1st March - 31st July), worrying livestock and intimidating staff, volunteers, event participants and general visitors. Additionally, we experience problems associated with uncollected dog waste.

As such, our policy is to ask:

- Visitors to keep their dogs 'under control and in sight' (Gov.uk) at all times. For most dogs this will mean on a lead. The law requires dogs on leads of no more than two metres on open access land between 1st March - 31st July and at all times around livestock.
- Visitors and their dogs to keep to paths where there is a public right of access.
- Visitors to clear up their dog's waste and take it home with them (SRWT don't provide bins).
- Professional dog walkers not to use our nature reserves to carry out their unauthorised commercial activities.

Nature reserves and farmland with particularly sensitive species and habitats are closed to people and dogs. This includes Hammond's Field SSSI, Agden Bog and Ughill Farm (outside of rights of way/CROW access land).

Adopted: October 2024

Review date: October 2025

Websites/Documents Researched/Cited

Eastern Moors Partnership. “**Take the Lead | Welcome to the Eastern Moors Partnership.**” *the Eastern Moors Partnership*, <https://www.visit-eastern-moors.org.uk/visit/take-the-lead/> . Accessed 9 September 2024.

Gov.uk. “**The Countryside Code: advice for countryside visitors.**” *GOV.UK*, 26 May 2023, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code/the-countryside-code-advice-for-countryside-visitors> . Accessed 9 September 2024.

Peak District National Park Authority. “**Enjoying the Peak District with your dog.**” *Peak District National Park*, <https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/visiting/planning-your-visit/dogs> . Accessed 9 September 2024.

SRWT. ***Dog Communications Focus 23-24: ‘Dog under control’ as part of ‘help your dog be an ally for nature’.*** 7 3 2023. *Dog Communications Focus 23-24: ‘Dog under control’ as part of ‘help your dog be an ally for nature’*, SRWT, <https://docs.google.com/document/d/18YkD5vVqjCfUCAkhWutntOQe0iZjExYN/edit>.
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