



MAP  
INSIDE

# Love dogs Love the Forest

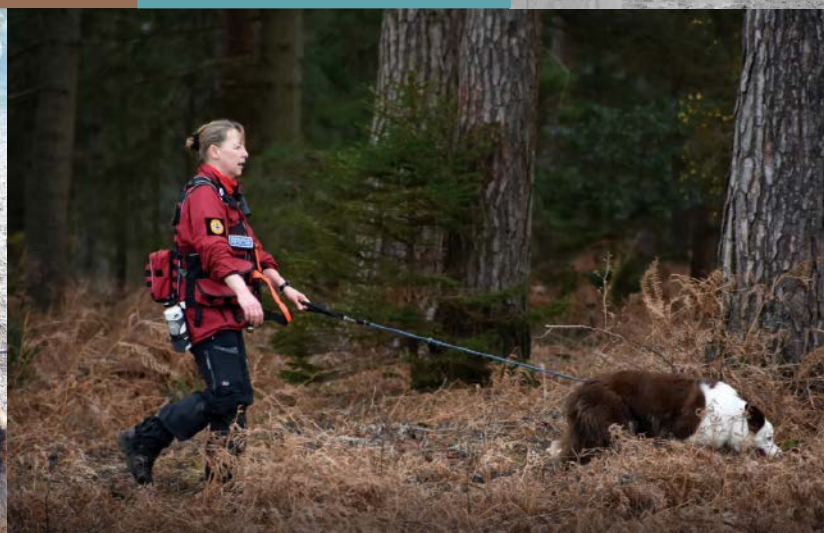


## Enjoying the New Forest with your dog

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.



### Historical hounds

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.

### World War I

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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### Search and rescue

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

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



If you are a professional dog walker, show that you follow best dog walking practices and respect the special qualities of the National Park by signing up to the New Forest Professional Dog Walkers Charter.

If you are a dog owner, follow the New Forest Code and display one of our car window stickers. If you are employing someone to walk your dog, please check that they are signatories to the Charter.

You can find the Charter on our website and view listings of all the businesses already signed up or find out how to register your own business.





## Keep your dog safe

Your dog should always be under effective control. This means that you have a short lead with you and use it when needed (e.g. around livestock, near roads or where signage requests it). Remember you should only have your dog off lead if you can keep it in sight and close enough to come back to you on command.

It is an offence to allow a dog to chase or attack livestock. Your dog may itself be in danger from cattle or ponies, especially those with young, if they perceive a threat.

Find the safest route around animals, giving them plenty of space. If you feel threatened by cattle, ponies or other animals, release your dog to make it easier for you both to reach safety.

Ensure that your details are on your dog's collar and that it is microchipped, so you can be reunited quickly if your dog does get lost.

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.



© Wikimedia, Scott Bauer



## Fetch, don't chase!

Try placing a ball or throwing it and waiting for it to settle. Then send your dog to find it.

This helps your dog learn not to chase things without checking it's ok with you.



## Sniff! Sniff!

Sniffing is really important to your dog. They are up to 10,000 times more sensitive to some smells than we are.

Sprinkling treats for them to find when you're out on a walk will keep them busy.



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. It may be useful to carry the details of local vets with you, if your own vet is further away.

Above - A pair of adders curled together - both have the distinct zig-zag markings, the male is black and grey and female is brown and tan.



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, wetland plants and wildlife.

## 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 5000 (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 – August)
- 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 do not park on road verges.



## 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. Don’t forget the New Forest Tour welcomes well-behaved dogs.



## Be considerate to other Forest users

- Always keep all dogs under effective control; 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.
- Keep your dog from jumping up at or approaching other people, especially children, horse riders and cyclists and prevent excessive barking.
- Keep dogs away from picnics.
- Show respect for other dogs (especially those displaying yellow as this indicates they need space); if an approaching dog is on a lead, put yours on a lead too.
- Consider moving aside to let other walkers, cyclists and horse riders past.

## Stay safe

- Carry a lead for each dog in your care.
- All dogs must wear collars with ID tags with the owner’s name and address.
- Park only in designated car parks, not on a verge or in a gateway.
- Keep dogs on leads in and around car parks and alongside roads.
- Do not allow your dog to chase or attack livestock, deer or any other wildlife.
- Keep your distance from grazing animals, especially mothers and their young.
- Release your dog if threatened or chased by cattle, ponies or other animals to get to safety separately.
- Dogs must always be under effective 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.

## Poo bags

Never leave bagged waste behind. Products such as the ‘Dicky Bag’ are an easy and hygienic way to carry waste bags until you can dispose of them properly.

## 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 exposed to the cold and vulnerable to predation, 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 England Crown Land, chasing deer is an offence against the byelaws and intentional hunting of deer is a criminal offence under the Hunting Act 2004.

## Respect the environment

- Keep your dog to the main tracks when birds are nesting on the ground (usually March – August).
- Throughout the year, avoid disturbing coastal birds by exercising your dogs away from them.
- Keep well away from any work taking place such as forestry and pony round-ups, and observe warning signage.
- Pick up after your dog; put bagged dog poo in a dog waste bin or litter bin, or take it home. Dog poo can cause serious illness in other dogs, grazing animals and people, even when it is no longer visible.