

## **City of London Corporation – Hampstead Heath DRAFT Code of Conduct for Dog Walkers.**

The Code of Conduct:

- Ensures that the use of Hampstead Heath by dog walkers does not adversely impinge on other users and other activities across the Heath.
- Protects the Heath's unique mix of wild and natural green space and historic landscape.
- Ensures that access to and use of this public open space is preserved for all visitors.

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to provide clear guidance to both professional dog walkers, and to individuals walking and exercising dogs on Hampstead Heath. The Code of Conduct reflects and reinforces the City of London Corporation's Heath Vision, which sets out shared community aspirations for the Heath 50 years into the future, expressed in four broad themes:

- We protect and conserve the Heath
- The Heath enriches lives
- The Heath is inclusive and welcoming
- Together we care for the Heath

A licensing scheme for professional and commercial dog walkers is also in place. A copy of the Professional Dog Walking application form is available online at [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/hampsteadheath](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/hampsteadheath). Alternatively, a copy can be obtained in paper format by telephoning 020 7332 3322.

### **Code of Conduct**

#### **Dog walkers should:**

- Keep their dog(s) under proper control
- Keep their dog(s) in line of sight at all times.
- Be able to recall any dog(s) they are walking.
- Ensure their dog(s) do not distress wildlife, particularly waterfowl, or damage habitats, e.g. by digging.
- Pick up their dog's faeces and take them off site or use an appropriate bin.
- Have a lead for each dog.
- Ensure each dog is wearing a collar with the contact number of its owner inscribed on it, or on a tag/plate attached to it.
- Put their dog(s) on lead when instructed to do so by City Corporation staff or in areas specified in the licence map, or where a notice indicates that this is required.
- Dog walkers should be aware that some people may find dogs intimidating or perceive that they present a physical risk and should take

immediate and appropriate action to ensure that their dog(s) does not threaten other Heath users or wildlife.

### **Professional Dog Walkers**

- You may only make use of Hampstead Heath for Professional purposes if you are licensed to do so. Professional Dog Walkers can be identified by a lanyard. Professional dog walkers without a valid licence will be liable to a fine.
- The licence restricts Professional Dog Walkers to exercise a maximum of four dogs on Hampstead Heath at the same time.

### **Microchipping**

- All dogs are required by law to be microchipped. The chip needs to be linked to the owner's current contact information to be compliant.

### **Byelaws**

- Dog walkers must abide by the byelaws for Hampstead Heath. A copy of the Byelaws is available [online](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/hampsteadheath) at [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/hampsteadheath](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/hampsteadheath).
- Alternatively, a copy can be obtained in paper format by telephoning 020 7332 3322. Dog walkers must consult the Byelaws in full. For reference, key excerpts from the Byelaws include:

Byelaw 21: No person shall cause or suffer any dog...to enter ...any open space, unless such dog be under proper control...and restrained from injuring, annoying or disturbing any person or animal

Byelaw 22: No person shall allow any dog... to enter any lake...entry on which by dogs... is prohibited by notice

Byelaw 23: No person shall...where a notice prohibiting the entrance of dogs is exhibited, cause or suffer any dog...to enter there in

Byelaw 26: No person shall...harry, ill-treat, or injure or destroy any animal, bird or fish...

### **Access Restrictions**

The City Corporation reserves the right to restrict the use of different areas of Hampstead Heath, by notices or the online map, which is provided to professional dog walkers. All dog walkers must conform to these restrictions, please refer to Byelaw 22.

Dog walkers must not allow dogs to go into playgrounds, fenced nature conservation areas, or into ponds except at designated dog swimming sites with floating barriers.

Dogs should be kept away from areas that are undergoing renovation or conservation works.

Formal landscapes, such as Golders Hill Park, and other sensitive locations, such as sports pitches, require dogs to be on lead at all times. A map setting out the areas where dogs are excluded, or must be on a lead, is available at [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/hampsteadheath](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/hampsteadheath).

### **Unacceptable Behaviour**

We expect people to treat the Heath and other visitors with respect. In the context of this Code of Conduct, please consider your actions and behaviours. Please observe the following when walking dogs on the Heath:

- Refrain from aggressive, intimidating or unreasonably noisy activities that interfere with the comfort and enjoyment of other visitors.
- Do not walk more than 4 dogs at once and avoid congregating with other dog walkers if this means there are more than 4 dogs present in one place at any one time.
- Dog Walkers shall walk in independent groups. Walking with other multiple Dog Walkers shall not be permissible.
- Prevent dogs from intimidating or threatening wildlife, damaging plants and habitats and the historic landscape of Hampstead Heath or compromising the enjoyment of these spaces by other users.
- Avoid leaving dogs unattended in a vehicle other than for short periods of time while collecting and dropping off.
- Refrain from unacceptable behaviour which may lead to a fine, or in the case of professional dog walkers, loss of licence.

### **Thank you for following the Code of Conduct for Dog Walkers and helping us to protect and conserve Hampstead Heath.**

- For more information on Hampstead Heath or to make a donation to the Hampstead Heath Charity please visit [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/hampsteadheath](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/hampsteadheath)
- To apply for a Professional Dog Walking Licence please visit (Insert Link)
- To find out about Volunteering opportunities please email [info@heath-hands.com](mailto:info@heath-hands.com)

(Add Social media links)