

Fownhope Parish Council

Serving the community



Dogs on Public Footpaths

Following concerns raised recently from both landowners and walkers, the Parish Council would like to remind dog owners of their responsibilities whilst walking their dogs.



It is not a legal requirement to keep a dog on a lead, but it is a dog owner's responsibility to keep their dog under close control.

This means that if your dog is not trained to come to heel at command, it should be on a lead whilst walking on public footpaths.

Some adults and many young children are afraid of dogs and even a well-intentioned dog running up to greet a small child can be a frightening experience. Youngsters can be put off dogs for life if they have a bad encounter at a young age. Even though you know your dog is simply saying hello, the child might not appreciate this, so if you cannot rely on your dog to come when called, it is good practice to put it on a lead when approaching a family with young children.

Many footpaths in and around Fownhope pass over private land. Please respect our local landowners by following the guidelines in the **Countryside Code**:

- **Leave gates and property as you find them or follow instructions on signs.**
- **Stay on marked paths, even if they're muddy.**
- **Put your dog on a lead around livestock.**
- **Bag and bin dog poo in any public waste bin or take it home**
- **Never leave bags of dog poo around, even if you intend to pick them up later.**

Walking with a dog is one of the great pleasures of living in a rural area, but please keep in mind that Public Footpaths are shared spaces and that not everyone using them might be as comfortable with your dog as you will be.

With thanks,

Fownhope Parish Council