



Dog participation form for dog(s) accompanying their owner on a walk with WALX IN THE FOREST

Dogs are very welcome to accompany their owners on **most** walks organised by **WALX IN THE FOREST**, but please check the walk description or get in touch with Janet to make sure.

It is recommended that dogs do not come on POPs and Lessons unless otherwise specifically agreed beforehand.

To participate:

Owners must:

- accept 100% responsibility for their pet's behaviour
- If a walker brings a dog(s), that walker is deemed to be the owner for the duration of the walk and must accept all the owner's responsibilities.
- Owners are expected to bag and bin their dog's poo; you can use any public waste bin or take it home to your own bin. This is especially important on agricultural and New Forest land because, for example, a parasite found in dog faeces called Neospora can cause pregnant cows and sheep to abort. Do not leave the poo bag 'to collect later' – you must take it with you.
- Ensure that their pet's behaviour does not interfere with other walkers or members of the public.
- Not allow their dog to chase or attack livestock, deer or any other wildlife.
- Keep their distance from grazing animals, especially mothers and their young.
- Release their dog if threatened or chased by cattle, ponies or other animals to get to safety separately.
- Keep their dog to the main tracks or on a lead when birds are nesting on the ground (usually March – July).
- 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.

Dogs must

- Be kept on a short lead, wear a collar with tag, be under close control and only let off the lead when instructed that it is appropriate to do so.
- Dogs (and owners) must be able to negotiate stiles and other obstacles. Even if the walk is advertised as dog friendly, it doesn't mean that all stiles will have doggy gates on them.
- Be at least 3 months old, up to date on vaccinations and treated for parasites.
- Be obedient, well-socialized and with no history of biting, excessive barking, chasing or aggressive behaviour.
- Be microchipped, to help locate and return them in case they run away.
- Be covered under their owner's homeowner's/renter's separate pet insurance policy, which must cover dog bites.



WAIVER OF LIABILITY:

In consideration of being permitted to bring my dog on a walk with **WALX IN THE FOREST**,

I _____ (the dog owner)

do hereby unconditionally release, indemnify, waive, discharge and agree to hold harmless **WALX IN THE FOREST, Nordic Walking UK, Exercise Anywhere Ltd, WALX, The New Forest National Park, Forestry England, Private Landowners and any other relevant parties, including members of the public and other walkers**, from any loss, damage, liability and expense, including court costs and legal fees, that may be incurred as a result of injuries, including death, to persons or dogs, or damage to property, directly or indirectly associated with the owner bringing his/her dog on a walk, whether caused by the negligence of other walkers, members of the public, staff or otherwise.

Additionally, I am willing accept that my dog may be the aggressor in a fight; willing to accept responsibility for any costs incurred if my dog bites another person or destroys property, willing to provide evidence of my insurance policy if requested, and willing to accept cues from others about my dog's behaviour if concerns are brought forward to me about my pet.

BY SIGNING THIS AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE, THE DOG OWNER EXPRESSLY ACKNOWLEDGES AND REPRESENTS that he/she has carefully read the foregoing terms and conditions, understands the contents thereof and signs voluntarily; he/she is at least eighteen (18) years of age and fully competent; and executes this Authorization and Release intending that he/she, his/her spouse and family members, and his/her heirs, assigns and personal representatives if deceased, be legally bound by same.

Signed

Print Name.....

Date.....