



## **Dogs in Public Spaces: Behaviour Change Without Enforcement**

With Covid leading to a 47% increase in dog ownership, the need for ever-more Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) could seem inevitable if we are to keep public greenspaces in town, coast and countryside free from dog fouling and prevent out of control pets causing problems for other people, livestock and wildlife.

While formal legal action is most certainly part of an overall enforcement strategy to change behaviour, science shows that most people will inherently want to do the right thing without hard-line enforcement, when given informed, accessible choices for happy, healthy, hassle-free dog walks.

PSPOs under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provide a wide range of regulatory options across local authority areas; however, a strategic approach is also necessary to ensure that enforcement is targeted at the persistent minority of irresponsible dog owners, as well as making it easier and more rewarding for the majority to do the right thing.

Key to getting the behaviours we want from dog owners is a deeper understanding as to why problems are occurring and then selecting the correct behaviour-change tools from a range of options. For example, unwanted behaviour can often persist due to unclear information about where dog walkers can go and what they can do in specific locations. Conflicting information is also often given by different land managers and public bodies; it is next to impossible for dog walkers to do the right thing if greenspace managers cannot be clear, consistent and credible amongst themselves about what is wanted.

Working with planners and housing developers can also avoid problems occurring in the first place, or prevent them from getting worse, by ensuring sufficient, developer-funded greenspace and infrastructure is provided from the outset in and around new residential developments.

With Covid-induced home-working also being curtailed in some sectors, an increase in the number of commercial dog walkers offers additional challenges and opportunities around how we can work with our communities to manage their greenspaces in the most effective ways for all, two legs and four.

<b>Course Aims</b>	This half day virtual course will provide delegates with a heightened understanding of why walkers with dogs do what they do in the outdoors, and how best to influence their behaviours using a wide range of practical interventions from across the UK and internationally.
<b>Course Objectives</b>	<p>By the end of this training delegates will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater awareness of why walkers with dogs do what they do and how best to change that</li> <li>• Identified practical steps they can take to improve greenspace and dog control management at a local level</li> <li>• Become up-to-date on the latest developments and research</li> <li>• A greater awareness of partners and opportunities in this area</li> <li>• Considered how a balanced, integrated and strategic approach can help to minimise conflict</li> <li>• Enhanced skills in engaging with dog owners through better understanding their motivations, values and beliefs</li> </ul>
<b>Who Would Benefit from Attending this Course?</b>	This course is suitable for anyone seeking to influence where dog walkers go and what they do in town, coast and countryside, be they site-based staff or strategic greenspace managers with area-wide responsibilities. Public sector managers of greenspace, environmental and animal control services will find this training highly relevant, as will greenspace managers in the private and not-for profit / charitable sectors.
<b>Course Duration</b>	Half day
<b>What have others said ?</b>	<p><i>"Positive engagement is key to influencing behavioural change".</i></p> <p><i>"Have a more balanced view, understand what works and what does not work in communicating with dog walkers".</i></p>

This course can also be delivered as a traditional class room based course to any number of your staff. Trainers are experienced and well versed in the challenges around dog control and positive behaviour change.

For more information or to request a quote please contact the Training Team on [training@keepbritaintidy.org](mailto:training@keepbritaintidy.org) or by phone on 07966 491963