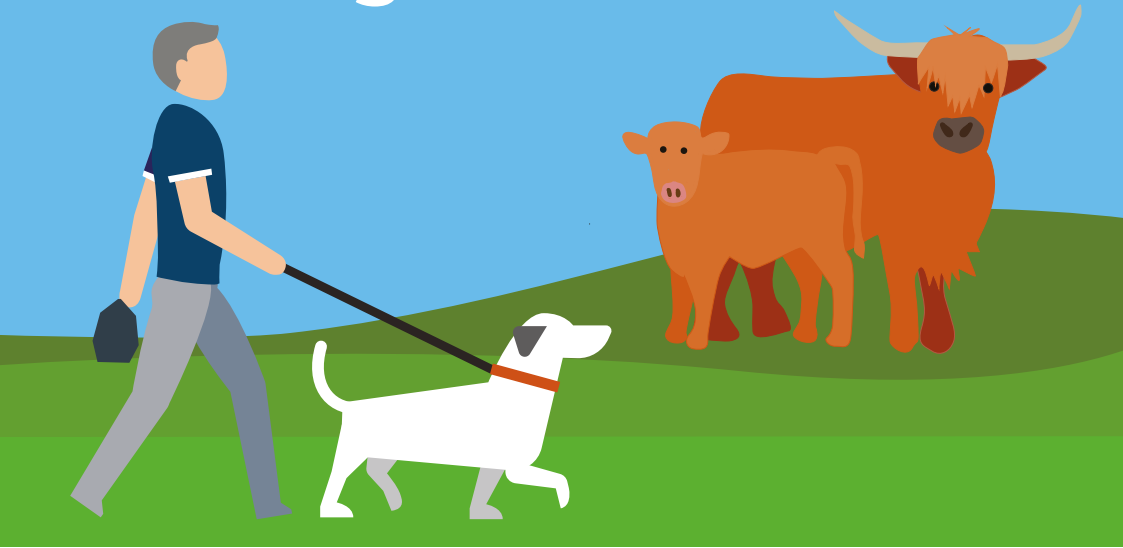


Responsible dog walking in Scotland



The outdoors is good for dogs and their owners. In Scotland, you can walk your dog on most land as long as you follow the **Scottish Outdoor Access Code** and keep your dog under proper control.

Poorly controlled dogs are a serious concern for farmers, other land managers and visitors to the countryside. Dogs can:

- worry or attack livestock, for example causing pregnant ewes to miscarry or resulting in injury or death,
- disturb wildlife, including breeding birds, and
- scare other people.

**SCOTTISH OUTDOOR
ACCESS CODE**

outdooraccess-scotland.scot



Key things to remember are:

- do not allow your dog to approach animals or people uninvited (in open country, it may not be obvious when animals are around)
- where possible avoid animals – release your dog if threatened by cattle
- always keep your dog in sight and under control – if in doubt use a lead
- don't take your dog into fields of vegetables and fruit unless there is a clear path
- always bag and bin dog poo – take it home when bins aren't available

Advice for farmers and crofters

To help address any problems caused by dog walking, you can:

- consider public access and assess relevant risks
- if necessary, use helpful signs to highlight issues to dog owners, removing them when not required, and
- suggest reasonable alternative routes if needed.

Further advice

- The Scottish Outdoor Access Code website includes guidance on managing issues linked to dog walking and downloadable signs.
- For assistance in managing problems at a particular place, contact your local authority access officer.



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