



## **Dogs and our Health Walks**

We do not encourage walkers to bring along their pet dogs, however it is up to each individual health walk to decide what is best for their walkers.

Health Walks are designed to provide a safe and comfortable environment for people to walk together and improve their health and wellbeing. Some people may be uncomfortable or scared of dogs or suffer with allergic reactions to dogs. Having a dog on a health walk could put people off attending our health walks.

Walk Leaders are responsible for the whole group, keeping everybody safe and happy.

Anybody wishing to bring a dog along to one of our health walks should contact the local program to ask permission first. We will consider the views of the group towards dogs before making any decisions, special support dogs will be given full consideration.

### **Ground rules when permission is granted:**

- It is the dog owner's responsibility to ensure their dog is well behaved and kept on a lead.
- Do not let your dog approach/jump up at other walkers unless you are given permission and certain they are happy with this, please be aware that not everybody is comfortable with close contact, even if you confirm the dog is friendly.
- Please keep a little distance from the walking group to ensure your dog is not a trip risk or getting too close to other walkers. Dog walkers usually walk at the tail end where possible. Walk Leaders may divide the group into walkers and dog walkers leaving a small gap between groups.
- Poo bags are a must!

Any questions please ask our friendly walk leaders or call the health walks project, check the walks schedule for details <https://activehalton.co.uk/walking/>

Please note we will often encounter dog walkers on route and have no control over this matter.