



# Guidelines for Dog Walkers

**Please ensure you have made contact with the client prior to commencing dog walking duties and communicate clearly when you will be coming to walk their dog(s). It is important that you stick to your scheduled times and let the client and/or Pet Guardian Network know if you are unable to make it at the agreed times/days.**

- Dogs should be walked on a lead at all times, unless the dog is in a secure facility e.g. a dog park.
- You must carry dog poo bags with you at all times and pick up after the dog and dispose of the poo appropriately (in a bin). We advise you to wash your hands immediately after you have walked the dog. If you cannot access facilities to do this then we advise that you carry a small bottle of hand sanitiser in your car or pocket.
- The dog must be wearing a well fitted collar or harness and its and registration tag must be attached. Please check the collar cannot slip over the dogs head prior to venturing out.
- Please be aware of any areas you cannot walk dogs and adhere to the Dunedin City Council's regulations at all times. <http://www.dunedin.govt.nz/services/animal-control/dog-exercise-areas>
- If you have any concerns regarding either the client or dog's welfare please contact Pet Guardian Network as soon as possible.
- If you feel uncomfortable or in danger at any time during your volunteer assignment please cease your volunteering duties immediately and report this to Pet Guardian Network.
- Please ensure your cell phone is on your person and charged at all times whilst you are on dog walking duties. Please ensure you have Pet Guardian Network's contact numbers in your contacts.
- If you have any concerns about the health of the dog please contact Pet Guardian Network immediately.
- If you are able to send us pictures of the dogs out on their walks that would be great and we can share them on our popular Facebook page.
- Please communicate clearly with the client as to how long you will be walking the dog for (e.g 1 hour etc).
- Please ensure you have the client's contact details on hand in case of an emergency.
- Please ensure the dog has access to fresh water following the walk.
- Pet Guardian Network will advise you on an appropriate exercise regime for the dog based on their age, health status and fitness level. Please follow this information carefully and do not over exert the animal.
- If the weather is unsuitable for walking please ensure you contact the client to advise you will not be attending. If it is a hot day please schedule your walks appropriately (in the cooler part of the day) and be mindful the footpath can be hot. Test with the back of your hand if in doubt (if it's too hot for your hand...it's too hot to walk the dog on).

## **Extra duties:**

If you have time to brush the dog following or prior to your walk please do.

If the dog is particularly dirty or in need of a haircut please advise Pet Guardian Network and we can arrange for the dog to be groomed (on a case by case basis).