

Dog Walking Policy

PURPOSE

To ensure consistent acceptable safety standards are maintained for the conduct of Dog Walking groups or any other activities involving dogs.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Medical Policy

- a. Members are solely responsible for ensuring their medical and physical fitness for these groups. If uncertain they should seek medical advice before enrolling or participating at any time. The Group Leaders may request verbal confirmation that medical advice has been obtained and is being followed.
- b. Prior to any scheduled walk, members and others attending must be personally satisfied that they and their dog(s) can complete the walk. If uncertain they should not attend.
- c. Members must wear or carry their U3A Knox Inc. identity name tag including details of any emergency contact telephone number, relevant medical condition, or vital medication, to alert medical professionals who may be called on their behalf.
- d. When serious injury, illness or other medical emergency occurs an ambulance is to be called following the [Calling an Ambulance Policy](#).
- e. Any costs associated with receiving medical services, medical treatment of any kind, attendance by paramedics or emergency services are the responsibility of the member or other person receiving the treatment or service.
- f. Qualified medical or first-aid treatment is NOT provided for members of groups involving dogs, however, a basic first aid kit is provided.

2. Safety Policy

- a. Each group is to appoint a safety representative.

- b. Safety representatives are to receive appropriate training from the U3A Health and Safety Officer who will determine the need and scope of periodic refresher training.
- c. Safety representatives are to advise the Group Leader of any safety concerns and possible remedial action for consideration by the Group Leader.
- d. Group members are responsible for obeying local laws, trail or park rules and showing courtesy to all others. In addition, they are required to comply with any related and reasonable request from the Group Leader.
- e. Breeds of dogs classified as dangerous or restricted, or dogs likely to menace or be aggressive are not permitted.
- f. The Group Leader must be satisfied that a dog and its handler are suitable for the Group.
- g. Bitches in season or observed by the Leader or safety representative likely to be in season must not be permitted to attend.
- h. The maximum number of members enrolled in each group must not exceed twelve (12). In addition, the Group Leader may permit a visitor to attend; however total attendance must not exceed 12 people.
- i. A maximum of two (2) dogs per member/person is permitted to be taken on any walk. The maximum number of dogs allowable in each group at any one time must not exceed fourteen (14).
- j. Dogs must not be left unattended and must be under the control of a handler at all times.
- k. Children under the age of 16 years must not attend these groups.
- l. All dogs must be on a suitable standard-length lead at all times. Extendable leads are not permitted.
- m. Members of the public particularly children must not be permitted to socialise with any dog in the group.
- n. Dogs must not be permitted to jump on or at passers-by or at other dogs including in the group.
- o. Group members are required to advise the Group Leader if they are not attending the walk, intend joining the walk at other than the listed starting point, intend to deviate from the planned route being taken, or intend to leave before the finish of a walk.

- p. Group members who do not complete a walk or deviate from the programmed or planned route without the consent of the Leader, are deemed to be absent from the group for that period.
- q. Walks must not be conducted or continued when the ambient temperature in the location of the walk is more than 30°C. The Leader will call off any walk if the weather conditions are deemed unsuitable or unsafe. Walks must not be conducted at any time on days in areas declared to have a total fire ban.
- r. Changes including cancellation for any reason may only be made by the Group Leader.
- s. A Group Leader may appoint a member to be the Walk Leader.
- t. The Group Leader to carry mobile telephone and advise the number to each member, the Course Coordinator, and the U3A Knox office.
- u. The Group Leader or delegate is to carry a basic first aid kit as provided.
- v. A description of all walks in the term or other program will include the start location, approximate length, duration, the pace, and degree of difficulty

Responsibilities: Group Leaders are to ensure that

- The Safety Policy is implemented.
- The official attendance sheet has been completed prior to and at the end of each walk.
- Any accidents, injuries or incidents are reported according to the [Health and Safety Policy](#).

3. General Policy

- a. In the absence of the Group Leader from a walk, an Interim Leader will be appointed. As soon as is practicable the Course Coordinator is to be advised details of the change.
- b. The Interim Leader must be made aware of and ensure that the duties and responsibilities of the Group Leader are performed.
- c. Group Leaders may invite an un-enrolled member or a visitor to participate in an introductory or other walk. Group Leaders are to ensure the invitee is aware, understands and accepts the relevant provisions of this policy.
- d. Members or other persons attending a walk are solely responsible for the welfare and conduct of a dog(s) in their control.

- e. Members or others attending are solely responsible for any injury or damage their dog(s) may cause to any member, walker, person, other dog, or property
- f. Members or other persons attending must not hit, abuse, or harshly handle a dog(s) under their control.
- g. All dogs must be registered and have the current registration tag attached to the collar.
- h. Members/persons in charge of a dog(s) in a public place must carry a facility for the effective removal of excrement deposited by their dog(s) and appropriately dispose of the excrement.
- i. All dogs must have up to date vaccinations. The Group Leaders may request verbal confirmation that vaccinations are current.
- j. When a mid-term program has not been provided, an extension of the term program to participate in community or other public events, or other walks during the term or term break, may only be made by a Group Leader or delegate.
- k. The Course Coordinator is to be advised of any changes, extensions, or cancellations to the programs.
- l. At the end of each term Leaders are required to return the completed group attendance sheet to the Course Coordinator.
- m. U3A Knox Inc. does NOT indemnify ordinary members or provide public liability, personal accident or any other insurance cover whatsoever including loss or theft or damage to personal or other property.

APPROVAL

This policy was reviewed and amended by the U3A Knox Inc. Committee of Management on August 11, 2021.