

Walking with Clumbers: Walkers Code

1. INTRODUCTION

Thank you for joining our Walking with Clumbers Group. We want everyone – humans and dogs – to enjoy our walks so we are asking participants to follow a few simple ‘rules’ so we can all relax and have fun. By joining a walk, you agree to follow this Walkers Code.

All walkers must ‘register’ to come on a walk in advance so that we do not exceed the number of dogs and walkers agreed with the landowner. Walkers must provide their email address and a mobile number in case we need to contact you if the walk is cancelled for any reason. A Registration form can be obtained by email from the Walks Coordinator or can be downloaded from the Clumber Spaniel Club website.

2. NUMBER OF WALKERS

Walks normally attract 10-30 people depending on the location. Some park authorities limit numbers and participation will be allocated on a first come first served basis with priority given to Clumber owners and may be restricted to those who have registered in advance.

Where there are a large number of participants (or some very slow walkers), it may be necessary for the Walk Leader to split the walkers into smaller groups at one of the “regrouping” points during the walk.

Marshals will be appointed to help control the walk and assist walkers. If the walk is split into groups, a Marshall will be allocated to each group. Please comply with requests made by the Marshalls.

Please do not leave the walk without notifying the Leader or a Marshall.

3. YOUR DOG

As it is more difficult to keep your dog in view when they are part of a Clumber pack on a walk please do not bring more than two dogs per person on a walk.

Please do not bring a bitch in season on a walk as it is unfair to others. Do not bring a dog that has been in contact with an infectious disease (e.g. with kennel cough) or suffering from an illness that may affect their ability to complete the walk. If a dog appears to be injured or unwell during the walk, the Leader will assess the situation and discuss suitable action with the handler.

Please do not bring any dogs that shown aggressive tendencies towards other dogs on more than one occasion, without obvious and justified cause, on a walk. However, the walk leader may permit a dog with a record of occasional and minor aggression (i.e. where they have “growled at” but not made contact with another dog) on the walk if it is muzzled and kept on the lead. The Walk Leader/Coordinator may allocate a specific position in the walk for such a dog i.e. with the Marshal who is acting as a back marker.

If a walker allows their dog to act in a way that is likely to cause, or actually causes, injury to other group members, livestock or other dogs on the walk they will be asked to leave the group. Dog owners should report any such incidents of aggression to the Walk Leader/Coordinator immediately.

When introducing your dog to others in the group be aware of signs of potential aggression and if necessary separate the dogs for a while before reintroducing them. In order to avoid the risk of

potential conflict between dogs please do not bring balls, toys or training aids that can be thrown, or that can be carried a dog.

Please ensure your dog is under control and within sight at all times during the walk. Remember it is easy to get distracted when talking to other walkers.

Owners should put their dogs on lead in busy areas and when approaching picnic sites, people fishing, near livestock and in other areas of high human and dog density and when asked to do so by the Walk Leader or a Marshall. While responsibility for the control of dogs rests with the owner/handler it is the reputation of the organisers and the breed itself that will be damaged if dogs on the walk upset other visitors. If your dog is on a lead, please try to avoid it becoming tangled with the leads of other dogs.

Always pick up after your dog where it is required and dispose of waste in a suitable bin or take it home. If it is not a pick-up area then use the 'stick-n-flick' technique to keep paths clear.

Please ensure you have water and a drinking vessel for your dog on longer walks or in your car, especially in hot weather.

Dogs left in vehicles are the responsibility of their owners. They should have access to water, adequate space, shade and ventilation both in the car and outside it. Dogs found in a car in distress will be rescued with minimum distress and in accordance with the KC guidelines.

4. OTHER DOGS, PEOPLE AND THEIR CHILDREN

Please be extra careful to keep your dog under control when meeting other walkers. Do not allow your dog to threaten or appear to threaten any other people or dogs. Not everyone likes dogs and a 'pack' – even Clumbers – can be intimidating for a dog walking solo, to children and adults. We do not want to contribute to a child developing a fear of dogs.

Take extra care if cyclists or horse riders also use the path and put your dog on a lead if asked to do so.

Members of the Walk should always give way to other users of the venue at junctions, "pinch points" and on dual use paths.

5. LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE

Your dog must be kept under effective control, which means that it should not be let off the lead unless you keep it in sight and close enough to come back to you on command.

Wild deer can be seen anywhere at any time in many of the areas where we walk. It is vital that you can control your dog if deer are accidentally flushed from the undergrowth. If your dog has chased deer before; or there is a chance it will not quickly respond to your call, then it is not safe to let it off the lead in areas where there may be deer.

Always put your dog on a lead in areas where asked to do so and near livestock, or in wildlife protection areas particularly in the nesting season.

6. CAFES AND PICNIC AREAS

Walks usually start and finish at a cafe. Keep your dog under close control and do not let it interfere with other people or their food and please do not allow dogs onto seats.

7. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

We are happy for children to join our walks but we do ask that any children under 16 be in the company of a responsible adult.

8. CLOTHING (humans)

Some areas on our walks may be muddy so please wear sensible footwear and bring appropriate clothing for the weather.

9. ROADS

If a road has, a pavement or path dog walkers should use it. If there is no pavement small groups of walkers should keep to the right side of the road facing on-coming traffic. Walkers should keep close to the side of the road and be prepared to walk in single file. When approaching a sharp right-hand bend the Leader may decide that, it is safer to cross to the left-hand side of the road and cross back after the bend.

However most of our organised walks will involve larger groups and then they should walk on the left side of the road if there is not a pavement. A Marshall, wearing high-vis, should walk at the front and rear as a lookout. At night, a white light should be carried by the lead walker and a red light by the Marshal at the rear.

Fluorescent or bright clothing can be worn to make the walkers more easily visible.

10. INSURANCE

The Clumber Spaniel Club has Public Liability Insurance for the walk but you are responsible for your own actions, safety and the control of your dog. We would recommend that you insure your own dog. Each walk is risk assessed and the walk leader will try to point out significant hazards where extra care should be taken. However, neither "Walking with Clumbers", the Clumber Spaniel Club, the Walk Coordinator/Leader or other officials takes any responsibility for accidents or injury that may occur on one of our walks. Each walker is responsible for his or her actions and those of their dog(s).

11. AFTER THE WALK

Please check all dogs and humans for ticks. If your dog shows any unusual signs of illness soon after the walk please consult your vet and inform the walk leader.

We take into account the Animal Health Trust advice about Seasonal Canine Illness when choosing our walks. They have published advice on their website, which includes the following in their FAQs section:

“What is the risk of my dog being affected?”

At the moment, it is difficult to assess the risk of dogs being affected as the cause of Seasonal Canine Illness remains unknown. The risk is probably lower in winter and spring with very few cases being reported between the end of November and the end of August. The majority of cases are reported in September and October; however it is important to remember that even during these months only a small proportion of dogs walking in woodland areas are affected.”

Download our Risk Assessment, Walk Leader’s Guide, Marshall’s Guide and this Walker’s Code from the Walks section of the Activities pages of the Clumber Spaniel Club Website

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