



## What are the health risks?

Dog mess can contain a number of things which make people ill.

The best known is an infection *Toxocara canis*, which is roundworm.

If the eggs of this worm are swallowed this can result in a range of symptoms from aches and pains to bronchial conditions.

In rare cases eyesight can be damaged

The risk to human health is small but can be reduced by:

- worming your dog regularly
- always clearing up after your dog
- good hygiene practice

## What are we doing?

We are working with regular and occasional users to create a happy balance to enable all our visitors of any age to enjoy the country park. We have created a dog free play area where families can picnic and play.

Please help us make Hinchingsbrooke Country Park a pleasant environment for all our visitors.



This leaflet provides guidance only. Further information is available locally from vets and pet shops

## What helps me be a good dog walker and owner?

Don't take your dog into the play area.

Remember to carry;

- bags to clean up
- dog lead
- treats
- means of recall

## What should you do with the waste?

- Place the bags in one of the many bins located throughout the park
- Do not fling the bag into the undergrowth

## What should you do if these are full?

Rangers regularly empty the bins but please tell them if one is overflowing.

## Anything else to remember?

Wash your hands as soon as possible.

Hinchingsbrooke Country Park's

# Dog Walkers & Owners Guide



# Hinchingsbrooke Country Park has thousands of visitors and we welcome well behaved dogs

## Dogs under control are happy dogs

**How should you control your dog?** Your dog must be on a lead both inside the café and outside the Visitors' Centre. (On the hard surface area including the decking area).

**Your dog must be on a lead in the Wildlife Area.** Your dog is free to exercise elsewhere in the park, **but it must be under close control** at all times.



### **“Under Control” or “Close Control”**

means your pet should be close by and return when called. If your dog does not usually come when called then you have not got it under control. The dog must then be on a lead.

### **Why should dogs be controlled?**

The country park is a haven for wildlife and has many visitors. Some visitors may not like dogs or be frightened. They do not wish to hear you say “my dog will not hurt you.”

Please do not allow your dog to be an uncontrolled dog or one that disturbs the wildlife by chasing animals or birds especially during nesting season, particularly in and out of the reed beds.

### **An uncontrolled dog can be a dangerous dog.**

If your friendly pet runs towards someone who is not a dog lover, they might step backwards, fall and hurt themselves.

If they are injured, you could be prosecuted for owning a dangerous dog.

### **Top Tips for Good Ownership**

Dogs do get excited and run off and have fun. It is the law that dogs have a collar and identification tag.

Rangers will contact the telephone number on the tag if a stray dog is brought to the Visitors' Centre.

It is a good idea to have your mobile number on the tag as you will probably be in the park looking for the dog!

**Dog fouling** happens and it is unpleasant for everyone as well as being a health hazard. It happens all over the park and can be seen on paths, picnic areas and open fields where children play or people sit.

**As a dog walker you must pick-up** and dispose of the waste in one of the many bins around the country park.

**Why should you clean up after the Dog?** It is an offence (under the Clean Neighbourhood Act) not to clean up after your dog in a public place.

**What might happen if you do not clean up?** Huntingdonshire District Council could initiate court proceedings leading to fines up to £1000 if you do not clean up after your dog.

