

Turning Users into Stewards

Challenge-to-Practice Labs

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NEGATIVE



Dorset Police Rural Crime Team

August 11 at 8:15 PM · 🌐

...

🚗 Recovered stolen ATV thanks to a vigilant dog walker 🐕

T... See more



People walking dogs are often the main visitors to green spaces and the countryside.

They are the 'eyes' and 'ears', discouraging anti-social behaviour, reporting fires or other incidents and issues and volunteer at their local site.

POSITIVE



Dorset Dogs champions positive management for people with dogs in town, coast and countryside and promotes responsible dog ownership.

Love Dogs...Love Nature



ABOUT US



Made up of 10 organisations working together to protect and enhance the Dorset heathlands.

The Partnership's aim is to alleviate urban pressures on the Dorset heaths brought about by new residential development in the area.

This is achieved with a combination of wardening, an inclusive education programme, access management and fire risk assessment and heath management.

www.dorsetheaths.org.uk



amphibian and reptile
conservation



Forestry England



DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE



giving
nature
a home

HISTORY

Set up by a group of land managers who were also dog owners in 2009.

Find more effective, positive ways to manage issues and also to recognise that dog owners can bring positive impacts.

Sought best practice training and advice from experts who are consulted by the Government and national organisations.

National Kennel Club Dog Award - Special Recognition Award





WHAT WE BELIEVE

Dogs are wonderful for our physical, mental and emotional wellbeing and if that goes hand-in-hand with responsible dog ownership there are strong benefits for the value, care and future protection given to our countryside and wildlife.

Knowledge of habitat and wildlife
Understanding of ecology and
conservation management

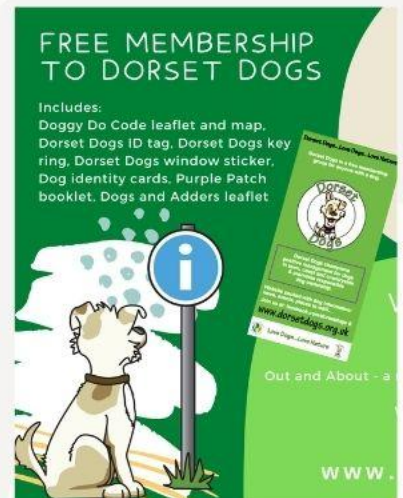
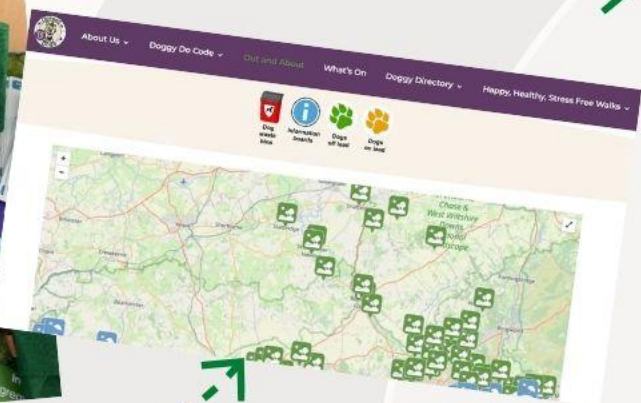
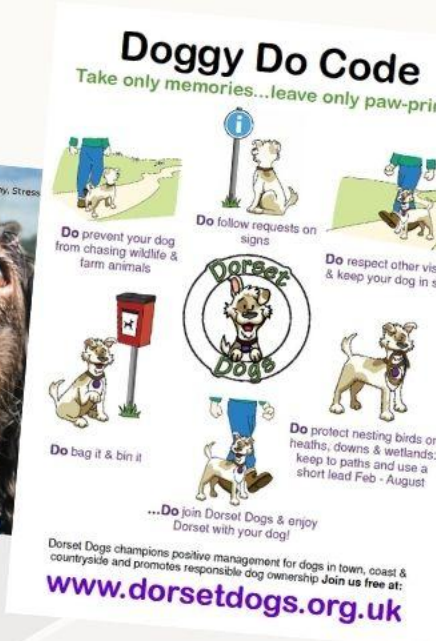
Effective communication and
engagement



Understanding the benefits of
behaviour change

Broad knowledge of dogs and
understanding the motivations
of dog owners

ENGAGEMENT



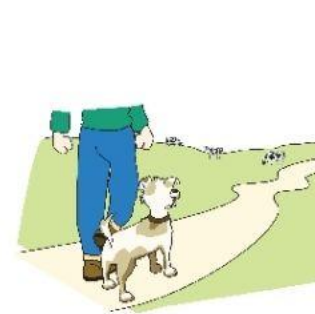
SIGNAGE

- Doggy Do Code
- Pawprint Roundels



Doggy Do Code

Take only memories...leave only paw-prints



Do prevent your dog from chasing wildlife & farm animals



Do follow requests on signs



Do respect other visitors & keep your dog in sight



Do bag it & bin it



Do protect nesting birds on heaths, downs & wetlands: keep to paths and use a short lead Feb - August

...Do join Dorset Dogs & enjoy Dorset with your dog!

Dorset Dogs champions positive management for dogs in town, coast & countryside and promotes responsible dog ownership **Join us free at:**

www.dorsetdogs.org.uk



DO PROTECT NESTING BIRDS ON HEATHS

KEEP TO PATHS AND
USE A SHORT LEAD

1 MARCH TO 31 JULY

Thank you for helping to protect the rare birds that call Dorset's heathland home

#BeAwarePleaseDon'tScare



SANGS

- Promote existing non-sensitive sites such as SANGs and areas where dogs are allowed off-lead.
- Support the development of new safe areas and SANGs for off-lead exercise, with involvement from the planning stage.



PROFESSIONAL DOG WALKERS

- 2 online webinars with the aim of engaging Professional Dog Walkers
- Raising knowledge of heathlands and the expected behaviour on them
- Included talks from a vet and Stephen Jenkinson

"Greater awareness of seasonal restrictions e.g. on lead in certain areas where wildlife are breeding / nesting"

- Professional Dog Walkers Charter (NFNPA)



DORSET DOGS
PROFESSIONAL
DOG WALKERS
CHARTER

CAMPAIGNS

- Summer Campaign
#FollowOurLead - to promote responsible dog ownership to visitors to Dorset





CASE STUDY:

K9 FIREWISE PATROL

The K9 Firewise Patrol is a joint project between Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS) and Dorset Dogs

Volunteers regularly walk on the heath with their dogs looking out for any signs of fire or suspicious behaviour that may link to wildfires.



DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE

CASE STUDY:

K9 FIREWISE PATROL

Since starting the scheme five years ago the volunteers have recorded nearly 1500 patrols.

The patrols are an important prevention activity to reduce the devastating fires on the heathlands.

Volunteers out walking their dogs are able to spot and report any fires quickly which means firefighters can get to the fire as soon as possible.



CASE STUDY:

K9 FIREWISE PATROL

Seeing the dogs in their “K9 Firewise Patrol” leads and bandanas can be a deterrent to those who are considering fire setting

It also allows other visitors to the heathland to see how Dorset Dogs, our partners and the volunteers and their dogs are working to protect our wildlife and heathland areas.





"This joy of this scheme is that it is so simple to be a part of. As a dog owner we walk daily and love to be out on the wonderful heathland that we have in Dorset. Whilst walking we look for signs of fires or anything suspicious that could damage the heathland and wildlife and then complete a simple report via an app. So in effect helping to look after the health of both ourselves, our dog and the heath and its wildlife and flora and fauna all at the same time!"

Irene and Poppy

CASE STUDY: USING BEST PRACTICE APPROACHES - NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

New Forest Dog Owners Group (NFD OG) established to protect the traditional rights of dog walkers in the New Forest.

- Membership
- Lost Dog Service
- Research Support - Alabama Rot



CASE STUDY: USING BEST PRACTICE APPROACHES

- New Forest Dogs Forum
- Code of Conduct (Dog Walking Code)

Love dogs, love the Forest



Do park only in car parks, not on verges or gateways



Do keep dogs on leads in car parks



Do always keep your dog in sight and under effective control, use a lead if necessary



Do always pick up after your dog and take bagged dog waste home or use a litter or dog bin



Do obey all warning signs



Do keep your dog to main tracks when birds are nesting on the ground (March-August)



Do make sure your dog does not approach or chase livestock, ponies, deer and other wildlife



Do show respect for other people and dogs

Thank you for keeping the New Forest special



Poster sponsored by



CASE STUDY: USING BEST PRACTICE APPROACHES

- Dog focused engagement
- Funding for a Seasonal Ranger
- Establishing relationships with Verderers
- Broader scope of research





CONTACT US



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www.dorsetdogs.org.uk



[@dorsetdogs](https://www.instagram.com/dorsetdogs)

THANK YOU