

Bringing Dogs to PCC Meets

Dogs are a familiar sight at PCC meets, enjoyed by many members. However, dogs running free can disturb wildlife, livestock, climbers, and other members of the public. This document provides some reference information for dog owners.

The primary reference is the [Countryside Code](#). The relevant legislation for open access land is contained in the [Countryside and Rights of Way \(CROW\) Act 2000](#).

What are the legal requirements?

The [law](#) is clear: on open access land, dogs must be kept on a lead no more than two metres long:

- between 1 March and 31 July (to protect ground-nesting birds)
- at all times around livestock

The Eastern Moors Partnership provide some useful educational material for their [Take the Lead campaign](#).

At which crags does this apply?

In short, these requirements apply to almost all crags used by the club.

All gritstone crags regularly used by the club are on open access land (even where there are public rights of way nearby these are likely to be above/away from the crag base).

A small number of limestone venues (e.g. Stoney Middleton, Horseshoe Quarry) fall outside this category, but see below for more general considerations around dog control.

Crags where dogs are banned

The following crags are affected by [Natural England Open Access Restrictions](#), which completely ban dogs at all times:

- Bamford Edge
- Stanage North
- High Neb

What other non-statutory considerations are there?

The Countryside Code offers general guidance:

Keep your dog under effective control to make sure it stays away from wildlife, livestock, horses and other people unless invited. You should:

- *always keep your dog on a lead or in sight*

- *be confident your dog will return on command*
- *make sure your dog does not stray from the path or area where you have right of access*

It is good practice wherever you are to keep your dog on a lead around livestock.

What climber-specific considerations are there?

The crag environment presents additional challenges relating to the comfort and safety of climbers. We often share these spaces with other (non-PCC) climbers and families. Dog behaviour that seems harmless to some can be distracting, inconsiderate, or even dangerous to others.

Potential problem behaviours might include:

- barking or jumping up at people - alarming or frightening members of the public
- rummaging in bags - disturbing kit, stealing food, dirtying clothing
- incessant barking/whining - most commonly when the owner is climbing and thus unable to do anything about it
- running free along the base of the crag - distracting belayers or tangling their ropes; getting onto bouldering mats
- interfering at the top of the crag - posing serious risks near exposed edges

Please keep dogs under close control at all times so we can protect wildlife and keep PCC meets safe and enjoyable for everyone.