

COVID-19 Policy for Carers on Boarding and Walking a Guest Dog

1. Consider each individual situation and how to safeguard both yourself and your dog's owners.
2. Agree the handover process in advance including time and where this will take place (your doorstep/at the gate) and the placing of the dog's belongings. Owners will NOT be expected to come into your home at this time.
3. Walk your guest dog in the surrounding area of your home and ideally on a lead. Depending on current government advice it may be preferable not drive to a location to walk.
4. Find a way to receive and return the dog securely, in a way which maintains as much as a two-metre distance between you as possible and does not involve the owner coming into your home.
5. Never walk dogs from different households at the same time.
6. Always wash your hands for 20 seconds using soap and water before leaving your home and when you return.
7. Consider wearing gloves for drop off and collection if you feel more comfortable to do so and dispose of them after use.
8. Consider using a different lead to the owner's but this MUST be suitable and strong enough. Extendable leads are not considered suitable for all dogs.
9. Open the gate/door to your property/household yourself to minimise contact dropping off or collecting.
10. Do not handle anything else, such as your phone, during any time of contact.
11. All equipment must be washed with soap and water in open air. It may be advised that any unnecessary toys and equipment such as additional leads will not be required.
12. Where possible, minimise touching the dog too much at hand over and wipe the dog over once you have entered your home with a pet-friendly damp disposable cloth after they arrive and before collection.
13. Maintain your social distance while walking, keep to quiet areas and do not allow other people or pets to come into contact with you or your guest dog.
14. Wash leads with soap and water regularly.

Other considerations maybe to attach a warning notice for owners not to approach / touch on arrival. The Carers own personal procedure dependant on layout of the property may be discussed with the Owner prior to drop off and collection by phone or text.