



LDWA

LONG DISTANCE

WALKERS ASSOCIATION

Dogs on Walks Policy

Contacts	Role	Email
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Version	Author	Notes
V1.1	Stuart Bain	Policy Review
V1 (Jan 2022)	Stuart Bain	Approved by NEC
V2 (Jan 2023)	Stuart Bain	Approved by NEC on 28/01/2023

Purpose

The Long Distance Walkers Association is an association of people with the common interest of walking long distances in rural, urban, mountainous or moorland areas. The LDWA allows like-minded long distance walkers to gain access to information on walking events and long distance routes across the UK. The LDWA comprises of a network of local groups across the UK who arrange social and challenge walk events. The LDWA is recognised as a national governing body (NGB) for rambling by Sport England, Sport Scotland and Sport Wales.

The National Executive Committee (NEC) is the governing body of the Long Distance Walking Association.

This purpose of this policy is to set out the Association's policy relating to dogs on organised LDWA walks.

Policy Statement

It is recognised that, for some dog owners, it is important they can bring their dogs along on walks. Local groups have different approaches in this area; there is no standard national policy.

Local groups and walk leaders can decide on the most appropriate approach for their group/walk based on local circumstances and times of year.

Ultimately the decision to allow dogs on walks rests with the walk leader or walk organiser, though if no dogs are allowed this must be made clear prior to the walk. Assistance dogs are normally allowed on LDWA walks. The walk leader can insist on dogs being on leads, and in particular dogs must be kept on leads anywhere where there is a possibility of livestock.

Owners must provide verbal confirmation to the walk leader that their dog is covered by pet owners' liability insurance before the walk.

Monitoring and review

This policy was last updated in February 2023 and is regularly monitored and reviewed.