Dogs on Rambles Policy

We know that many people enjoy rambling with their dogs, so well-behaved dogs are welcome on the majority of our rambles.

From time to time there may be a ramble that is not suitable for a dog. This may be due to landowner regulations, livestock issues or particular terrain. If this is the case only assistance dogs will be permitted.
Please note that where a ramble is on open access land between March 1st and 31st July it is a legal requirement for your dog to be on a lead even if there is no livestock on the land.
Reference: the Countryside Code, Advice for Countryside Visitors

New Law in 2026: Owners of dogs worrying or attacking livestock can get unlimited fines. Police can seize, detain and dispose of the dog.
Government guidance is: It is good practice to keep dogs on a lead when walking in rural areas where livestock are kept, but let go of the lead if chased by cattle

For the safety and enjoyment of ALL on a ramble we ask that:

- You keep your dog close and under effective control and, when required, on a short lead of no more than 2 metres. If you cannot instantly recall your dog and put them on a lead, please do not let them off in the first place.
- Dogs do not wander alongside or in front of other ramblers' scooters.
- Dogs do not run amongst walkers' legs.
- Dogs are prevented from approaching horse riders, cyclists, joggers or other people and their dogs uninvited.
- Owners bag their dog's poo and dispose of it responsibly.

Should there be an incident with a rambler's dog, it must be reported to the ramble leader as soon as possible. If this involves a dog biting, injuring or any threatening behaviour, the dog will not be able to attend any future rambles.
In line with advice from local authorities, the Disabled Ramblers encourages any injury or dog biting incident to be reported to the police.

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Version	**Date**	**Author**	**Changes**
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1.1	2026-06-08	J. Cuthbertson, M. Andrews	Reviewed. Format standardised. Issue Control added. Links updated. New law and advice on livestock worrying/attacks added
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