

How To Choose A Dog Walker

What you need to know



R+ Dog Training

Caveat Emptor!

Buyer beware indeed! We all need a little help sometimes and finding a professional dog walker can be an important part of your support network. Your dog is a precious member of your family so you need to make sure that you can trust a dog walker to take as much care as you would yourself. The need to undertake a proper search and vetting procedure is all the more important in these days of high levels of dog theft.

What You Should Do

- 🐾 Spend time doing research and asking other dog owners for recommendations
- 🐾 Ask for proof of a substantial qualification including behaviour, dog handling and canine first aid
- 🐾 Ask for proof of full insurance cover, not only for potential harm to your dog but loss of keys etc
- 🐾 Ensure that candidates understand local regulations (number of dogs permitted etc) and basic canine law
- 🐾 Agree on the equipment that your dog needs and make sure that only positive reinforcement will be used
- 🐾 Discuss the other dogs that may be out with your dog and ask how the walker will ensure that they get on
- 🐾 Discuss what food, if any, your dog may have on walks and provide it if necessary

- 🐾 Agree a schedule and length of walks
- 🐾 Discuss cancellation on both sides and find out if the walker can provide a suitable substitute
- 🐾 Agree regular feedback schedules and emergency procedures
- 🐾 Provide written permission for seeking emergency veterinary help
- 🐾 Set up an interview and then ask for references and reviews
- 🐾 Follow up references and check paperwork
- 🐾 See the walker in action with other dogs
- 🐾 Set up a trial period and review before establishing a regular contract.

Need more help? Contact R+ Dog Training and ask about our Advice Services

This is only a brief overview. We can provide help with finding a reputable dog walker and help with interviews so that you can have peace of mind and know that your dog will have the best chance of being safe when you need extra support.

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