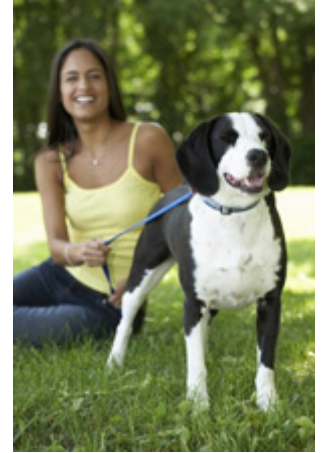




Good Dog Owner Guide

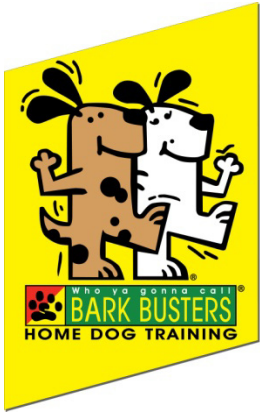
We know you love your dog; however we all have a duty of care towards members of the public and other dog owners to be responsible and considerate dog owners. Here at Bark Busters, we want EVERYONE, members of the public and dog owners alike, to enjoy walking in the countryside or parks, without the fear of being worried or attacked by dogs. We also want a safe environment for children where they can grow up without an inherent fear of dogs. Below are some points that may help us all achieve that.

- Expose and socialise your puppy or young dog early in its life with other dogs, people, noises, traffic etc., so that they are at no risk of panicking and causing injury to themselves or others.
- Feed a good quality food with the correct amount of balanced protein. Where a dog is displaying hyperactive behaviour, best to avoid feeding foods with colourings, harmful additives or foods that are high in carbohydrates.
- Neuter your dog at an early age. This reduces or prevents the hormone induced behaviour such as some forms of aggression, escaping to find a mate, phantom pregnancies and some cancers, as well as unwanted or poorly bred litters. In male dogs, it also reduces the risk that entire males pose to other male dogs and the territorial behaviour that encourages them to sometimes attack to repel other dogs and people who enter their property.
- Always wash your dogs eating and drinking bowls daily. Dishes left unwashed can prove a health risk to your dog as they can sometimes form a bacterial growth that can make your dog sick.
- Ensure that your dog's barking is controlled. Nuisance barking is where a dog barks at those things that do not prove a threat to the homeowner. A good 'watch dog' knows the appropriate time to warn you of danger. Not one that barks at everything that moves. Councils have powers to impose hefty fines as well as Dog Control Orders on owners whose dogs prove a nuisance to the public. This may mean that the owner of a barking dog might have to re-home their dog or even move to another house. There is no need for this behaviour as dogs can be easily trained to only bark when appropriate.
- Train your dog; seek professional help if necessary. A trained dog is a joy to behold. Knowing you have full and complete control of your dog gives you the peace of mind and the security, knowing that your dog will come back to you when requested or in an emergency, allowing you and your dog to have a relaxed and happy walk.
- Teach your dog to walk calmly on a loose lead. A dog that pulls on the lead is not pleasant to walk and can cause serious injury, such as aching arms, back and shoulder injury. This kind of pulling by a dog on either a collar or a harness is also harmful to the dog as it can cause injury to the dog's airways or shoulders etc.



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Good Dog Owner Guide cont..



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- Correct all signs of antisocial behaviour at the onset. Things such as; play-biting, jumping up, growling, nipping and assertive behaviours by your dog, can cause future problems with humans and other dogs.
- Always take a lead with you on walks even if you believe your dog does not need one. There's always the possibility that one day a running child, the kicked football, a running cat, squirrel or other dog may prove too much for your dog to resist.
- Even the friendliest dog should never be allowed to rush up to a person or another dog, especially if the other dog is on a lead. It may cause difficulty for the other owner as their dog may feel trapped and your dog may therefore be the cause of an aggressive response. Remember not all dogs are as friendly as your dog. They may have had a bad experience in the past, may have an injury or could be aggressive to other dogs.
- As a dog owner, you should be aware of the laws which affect you and your dog.
- The Dangerous Dogs Act states that it is a criminal offence if your dog is "dangerously out of control" in a public place. *A 'dangerously out of control' dog can be defined as a dog that has injured someone or a dog or that a person has grounds for reasonable apprehension that it may do so*. So your friendly sappy pet, jumping up at someone on a walk could be interpreted by some as "dangerously out of control". The police do have the power to seize dogs and impose a destruction order.
- **ALWAYS** pick up after your dog if he has toileted in public areas. Disease and parasites can cause havoc with humans as well as dogs, not to mention the unpleasant job of scraping shoes or carpets! Failure to pick up after your dog could see you fined up to £1,000.
- Never allow your dog to chase or worry livestock; a farmer has the right to take steps to stop your dog from worrying his stock, even by shooting in some circumstances. If your dog is not safe around stock always make sure that you keep it on lead.
- It is a legal (and sensible) requirement that your dog has a collar with a tag showing your name and address when in a public place – phone number optional.



Good Dog Owner Guide cont..

- Check with your local council as to where you are legally required to keep your dog on lead. Some bylaws totally forbid you from allowing your dog off lead in certain places.
- **NEVER EVER** leave a dog unattended with a child. Even dogs who are normally the most loving gentle creatures, could be provoked into an accidental attack by a child, with such things as, poking, taking a toy, tripping over and falling onto the dog or even running or screaming with laughter. It's just not worth the risk of injury to a child and the loss of your beloved pet. You can find more information about child and dog safety at www.dogsafety.co.uk

In the world we now live we are at risk of losing our rights to enjoy our pets if we don't abide by some basic laws. In many countries around the World, dogs are **NEVER** allowed to run free and always have to be muzzled when in a public place. Unless we all act as responsible dog owners our laws on 'dog control' in the future may change to be more restrictive. What a sad day that would be if we lose the right to enjoy the good relationships we have with our dogs, neighbours and fellow walkers on the basis we all enjoy today.

Please call us anytime if you require assistance



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- 🐾 Working for a better tomorrow for those of us who love dogs.***
- 🐾 Working together to make dogs more acceptable in society***

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