



West Lothian
Council

Guidance for Applicants

Trusted Trader Scheme **Commercial Dog Walking**

West Lothian Council's Trusted Traders scheme is run by The Environmental Health & Trading Standards Service

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10 basic Principles that Commercial Dog Walkers should adhere to:

- 1. Required to have relevant pet business insurance.**
 - a. *This should cover for a minimal of public liability (should an animal cause an accident, injury or damage to someone else or their property), care custody and control (in case a dog is injured or lost due to your negligence), and non-negligent cover (in case of accidental injury to an animal in your care).*
- 2. Must not walk more than 6 dogs per person to be exercised at any one time and have full control over ALL dogs at ALL times.**
- 3. All dogs being walked together must have written consent by owners allowing for group walking.**
 - a. *Copies of all contracts/consent forms should be kept in case they are required to be produced at a later date.*
- 4. Must be carrying sufficient amount of poo bags whilst walking and dispose of it responsibly.**
 - a. *Used bags should be disposed at your home in your landfill waste bins or in marked dog bins that are located throughout West Lothian.*
- 5. Must always carry enough leads for ALL dogs being walked, even if some are being walked off-lead.**
- 6. Transportation must be adequate and have ability to separate dogs that are not from same household safely and securely.**
 - a. *If racking is used then it must be of a solid structure and not allow any cross contamination of urine/faeces between crates.*
- 7. Travel time for each dog must be minimised.**
 - a. *We would expect that any dog within your care should not travel more than 30 minutes each way to their walking destination. At no time should any dogs be left in your vehicle for more than 15 minutes unattended.*
- 8. You should have drinking water available for all dogs pre and post transport if they require it.**
 - a. *Weather conditions and the type of exercise should also be taken into consideration. It may be beneficial to carry a bottle of water whilst exercising the dogs in case it is required.*
- 9. Must have a dog first aid kit available at all times.**
 - a. *At minimum this should include antiseptic wipes/liquid and an assortment of bandages.*
- 10. Dogs should be tagged with dog walker's details on it during time of walk in case of escape.**

Minimum details should be the name of your company and a contact telephone number.

The above are basic guidelines that any Commercial Dog Walker must adhere to if they are to register as a Trusted Trader under West Lothian Council's Trusted Trader Scheme.

These are based on Lantra's National Occupational Standards <http://www.ukstandards.org.uk/PublishedNos/LANANC72.pdf> along with other Commercial Dog Walking Schemes being used throughout the UK.

Failure to comply with the above may result in applicants not being granted access into the scheme, and current members may have their membership revoked.

All information on West Lothian Council's Trusted Trader Scheme and how to become a Trusted Trader can be found at <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/trustedtrader>