



Great British Greyhound Walk

Rules & Guidelines

GBGW Rules:

Any greyhound/sighthound owner is welcome to attend

- It is very important that GBGW is open to anyone who owns a sighthound, wherever that hound may have come from and whatever the background.

The walk is 'on lead' at all times

- It is very important that the walk is on lead at all times – accidents easily happen with all dogs onlead this minimises any risk

Ensure all walkers act responsibly (poo, muzzles, considerate etc.)

- We are representing all sighthounds so must be responsible and considerate. Any dog that needs a muzzle must be muzzled for the duration of the walk/event (we have seen a muzzle removed after walking only for the dog to take a pop while people were talking afterwards.) Picking up poo – goes without saying. Being considerate to other walkers if you have a large group, we don't want to cause unnecessary obstruction.

GBGW is a FREE event

- There should be no charge to attend the walk, you can collect voluntary donations if you wish.

Guidelines

Venue - look for somewhere that:

- Can accommodate the number of people you hope to attract
- Has safe parking - greyhounds seem to tumble out of car boots!
- Has somewhere everyone can gather safely out of the way of cars and not causing an obstruction.
- Has a pleasant walk for all abilities of hound and human of around an hour. Is there plenty of shade if it's hot?
- Toilet facilities and refreshment or picnic facilities, not essential but nice if you want to socialise afterwards.

Do a bit of homework - check everything out

- Even if you know the walk, check it out beforehand and decide if it is okay for more people than just you. Paths wide enough, no odd gates or noisy stretches that might worry some shy or more nervous dogs.
- Take someone with you who's not been there before for their opinion.



- Time the route, including wee/poo stops for multiple dogs and plan a shortcut route back for older or less able dogs.

Be polite

- Notify the park management or local council if you expect more than 20/25 dogs.
- You may need to fill in forms and do a Risk Assessment (we have a template for this and can guide you through the process).
- You may need insurance, we can help with this email gbgw@greyhoundwalks.org.uk
- If you're using a council's country park, befriend your local park ranger, let him know that your walk is organised and has set rules which promotes responsible dog ownership.

Getting people along

- Publicise, publicise, publicise – check out the downloadable flyers or order some ready printed
- Try doing an article for your local newspaper – check out the downloadable Press Releases
- Carry Save the Date cards (order form on the website) and give them to other sighthound owners you meet.
- Send flyers to your local vet and pet shops.
- Contact your local Greyhound rehoming kennel and see if they'd like to get involved as well.
- Generally spread the word, use internet forums and websites too!

Be organised on the day

- You may need some help don't be afraid to ask people who come along even if you don't know them!
- As organiser make yourself visible so people know who's in charge and who to come to if they need help or have questions. Why not wear a hi-vis coat (you can get them from the £ shops) or a sash.
- Someone to meet and greet people and to hand out information leaflets/contact forms is good.
- Do a little talky bit at the beginning so everyone knows
 - 1. The rules – on lead, pickup poo, be considerate and no flexed extending leads (can cause accidents/injuries)
 - 2. Why they're there
 - 3. What else you might have planned.
- If you're expecting a few people you need someone to lead the walk, and someone to stay at the very back to show stragglers/slow walkers the way and someone to count how many sighthounds and how many 'others'
- If you're on your own keep an eye on the back people so you don't lose them, they might not know the way home!
- Don't forget to chat to everyone at the end and get their feedback
- Hand out liver cake or little treat to the dogs (a good ice breaker)
- Last but not least, collect voluntary contributions and talk about future walks.

Don't forget to text your walk numbers in to GBW HQ and they'll send regular texts with national walk figures throughout the day.

Good Luck!