



**UNDERCLIFFE CEMETERY CHARITY**

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**Registered Charity No. 519751**  
**Registered in England, Company No. 1973400**

## **GUIDANCE NOTE:**

### **DOG WALKING AT UNDERCLIFFE CEMETERY**

Over the past few years the Charity has been monitoring the use of the cemetery by dog walkers. During this period numerous complaints have been received on two issues in particular:

- **Dogs being allowed to roam free and off the lead**

This has led to serious and dangerous incidents with dogs becoming aggressive and territorial towards children and adult visitors to the cemetery as well as to our volunteer workers.

- **Dog fouling on graves, paths, and other areas**

It is extremely distressing for families visiting graves at the cemetery to see owners allowing their dogs to run freely over graves, fouling and then not clearing up. It is also a serious health and safety issue for volunteers working in the cemetery – especially where grass cutters and strimmers are being used.

While most dog owners who visit the cemetery are responsible, unfortunately there is a small minority who do not comply.

The Trustees have a duty to safeguard the right of grave owners to visit the cemetery without the distress resulting from the behaviour outlined above. We also need to be able to provide a safe, secure and healthy workplace for our staff and volunteers.

A cemetery is not a public park, a playground or a dog walking facility. As the final resting place of family and friends the cemetery is primarily a place for calm, peaceful and quiet reflection.

For this reason the Trustees of Undercliffe Cemetery Charity are issuing new and updated guidance to dog owners.

Dog owners are reminded that dog walking at the cemetery is only permitted on the following conditions:

- (a) that dogs are kept on the lead at all times and are not allowed to roam free
- (b) that dogs are kept to the pathways and are not allowed to walk over grave plots
- (c) that dog mess is cleared away by the owner and disposed of appropriately.

**Responsible dog owners who respect the rights  
of other cemetery visitors are welcome.**

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