

## **Dog Owner's Responsibilities**

We welcome dogs at Birr Castle Demesne, and our gardens have many wonderful areas for dog walking. We encourage dog owners to stay responsible, keep dogs leashed, and ensure a safe, pleasant experience for everyone.

Below are the guidelines you must abide by when walking your dog in the demesne:

### **1. Keep Dogs on a Leash**

- Dogs must be kept on a short leash and under the control of a responsible adult at all times. This ensures the safety of your dog, other visitors, and wildlife. At no time should your dog be allowed wander out of your sight or be left unattended.

### **2. Pick Up After Your Dog**

- Carry waste bags and always clean up after your dog. Dispose of the waste in an appropriate bin to keep the gardens clean and pleasant for others. Waste bags are available at reception desk. A clean up fee will apply if your dog soils in the reception area.

### **3. Respect Other Visitors**

- Not everyone is comfortable around dogs. Ensure your dog does not approach other people, especially children or elderly visitors, without permission. Be particularly cautious when walking your dog within the proximity of other dogs.

### **4. Mind the Wildlife**

- Keep your dog from chasing or disturbing birds, squirrels, and other wildlife that may inhabit the garden.

### **5. Monitor Your Dog's Behaviour**

- Ensure your dog remains calm and well-behaved. If your dog shows signs of aggression or excessive barking, take steps to manage the behaviour. If a dog is threatening or interfering with the enjoyment of other visitors, you may be asked to leave the demesne.

### **6. Obey Our Signs**

- Heed signs and be aware of specific regulations, such as areas where dogs are not allowed (e.g., playground and Science Centre galleries).

### **7. Stay on Pathways**

- Keep your dog on the designated walking paths to avoid damaging garden plants and landscaping. This helps preserve the beauty of the gardens for everyone.

## 8. Restricted Breeds

- In Ireland, certain dog breeds are restricted under the Control of Dogs Regulations 1998. Owners of restricted breeds must adhere to specific rules to ensure public safety. These dogs must be kept on a strong leash, not exceeding 2 meters, and be muzzled in public spaces. Owners must also ensure the dog is under the control of someone over 16 years of age. Dogs classed as restricted breeds list are listed below:
  - American Pit Bull Terrier
  - Bull Mastiff
  - Doberman Pinscher
  - English Bull Terrier
  - German Shepard (Alsatian)
  - Japanese Akita
  - Japanese Tosa
  - Rhodesian Ridgeback
  - Rottweiler
  - Staffordshire Bull Terrier
  - Dog type known as a Ban Dog (or Bandog)

See <https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/environment/pets-and-wildlife/control-of-dogs/> for more information

## 9. Dog Owners Responsibilities

- While visiting the demesne you are responsible and liable for the actions and behaviour of your dog. Failure to adhere to the above guidelines will result in you being asked to leave the demesne and your membership being revoked without refund.