

## East Lothian Council

### Guidance for dog walking businesses during Covid-19 pandemic

Think very carefully about going out to work at all especially if you, a family member or one of your clients may fall into a vulnerable category. Everyone's health is a priority.

Consider restricting services to key workers only. It is recommended these clients confirm to you in writing that, as a key worker, they have no alternative to ensure the welfare needs of the animal are met.

If you do continue to operate:

- Avoid direct contact with clients during dog collection and drop off. You could collect a dog from the garden or from a separate room
- Use personal protective equipment and change regularly (eg shoe covers, disposable gloves, hand sanitiser)
- Use your own lead for each dog and disinfect between use
- Walk dogs from the client's home to minimise risk of contamination from/to your vehicle or home. If you must transport dogs ensure to disinfect crates in between pickups
- Walk on your own and follow social distancing guidance – no group walking
- Keep dogs on leads and shorten walks
- Check with your insurances (business and vehicle) that there are no clauses that may leave you uncovered during these times

#### Please note

This guidance is subject to change and Scottish Government may issue formal guidelines for professional dog walkers.

#### For further guidance:

NHS Scotland:

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>

Scottish Government:

<https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

British Veterinary Association (although for vets) provides some hygiene guidance:

<https://www.bva.co.uk/news-and-blog/news-article/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-updates-for-the-veterinary-profession/>