

Oh My Dog!



We introduce a new regular column on pet care by the owner of Paws, Claws 'n' More, Phil Houston who can provide top advice on how to give your dog - and yourself - the best life possible ...

"Welcome to my first instalment of Oh My Dog! Your essential guide for you and your pooch. As an owner of three dogs, and a business that cares for other people's dogs, I am constantly aware of the everyday problems that people experience with their dogs, and just as importantly, other people's dogs too!

When you look around the internet, it doesn't take more than a couple of minutes to find people ranting on about something that has made them unhappy with their dog experience. Here, we will cover two of these issues and I will share with you how to deal with them.

So, let's deal with issue Number One - poo.

Everyone has grumbles about it, whether it's outside your house, in a field where your children play or where you walk your dog, it is everywhere. Some people pick it up all the time, some people pick it up some of the time and some people never pick it up.

The answer to this problem is simple - although putting that answer in place is almost never likely to happen. The answer? Fine people, fine them every time they don't pick up, have people employed by the local council to do this - "poo wardens" if you like. This will reduce it dramatically, but will the council do it? Nope. People tend to take notice and fast when their actions hit them in the pocket.

Issue Number Two (no pun intended) - off-lead dogs.

The level of frustration with this issue is as high as with the dog poo issue. Once again it comes down to the education and motivation of owners. People will walk their dogs largely in the same places as other dog owners. This means there will be dogs of all shapes and sizes, of all characters, running around. Some on the lead and some off-lead. If you are an owner who walks their dog on the lead and you go to these places with your dog, you will no doubt be constantly frustrated.

People will always do what they want with their dogs, as much as it's the right thing to do to only allow your pooch off lead if you have good voice control over them, people won't do this, ever.

I'm not trying to tell you the above situation is okay, it is just the way it is. Yes, you can demand everyone does the right thing in public with their dogs, but they won't.

The answer to this problem is also simple, tolerate it or remove you and your dog from the problem by walking your pooch in locations where there isn't a lot of doggies. Is that ideal? No. Is it fair to you? Again no, but it will improve the quality of the time spent with your dog.

Happy hounding!"

Further information about Paws, Claws & More can be found at www.pawsclawsandmorekent.co.uk or by calling: 07572 427449.

