

# Southern Country Park

# Dog training area

The Council has been asked by residents to create a space where dogs can be taken off the lead for training without fear they might pick up a scent and reach roads outside the park. The Friends of Southern Country Park have kindly agreed to provide their voluntary services to install the fencing. This area is designed to be used only for dog training.

The area must not be used to let your dogs off the lead to exercise them. We are keen to promote responsible dog ownership and for dog owners to have sufficient control of their pets to be able to let them run without the need for secure fencing. It is important that dog owners are able to get their dogs to return when needed, not just for their own safety but for the benefit of other park users.

This area is to help responsible dog owners train their dogs so they can be walked safely in our parks when off the lead. If your dog will not return on command, you should keep them on a lead in the park at all times. If they are not under control, you risk your dog escaping and finding a road or harming other park users.



## Guidance for using this area

- Always pick up after your dog if it fouls. You risk being fined for not doing so.
- Please supervise your dog at all times. Whilst the fencing is designed to contain most dogs, it may still be possible for your dog to squeeze through, jump over or escape when the gates are opened by other users. The Council accepts no liability for any loss of damage howsoever caused.
- If you have any doubts, use a long training lead initially to get your dog used to some of your commands and to feel comfortable in the space.
- If other dogs are being trained when you arrive, there may be room to join them or you may need to wait your turn. Please check with owners before joining them to be sure their dog can cope. Training in groups is often encouraged but you should adopt a sensible approach to the number of dogs training at one time.
- If your dog is particularly nervous and you would like to train them alone, please pick a time when the area is not busy.
- Professional dog trainers are welcome to book the facility but must pay a hire charge to obtain a licence for using the park. Dog owners are welcome to use the enclosure at any time except when it is being used by a licensed dog trainer or if a licensed dog trainer asks you to leave the enclosure. A licensed dog trainer will always carry a photo card issued by East Herts Council.

If you would like to report any damage or issues, please call the Council's Operations Department on 01279 655261 or email [operations.admin@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:operations.admin@eastherts.gov.uk).

If you would like to find out more about training your dog you can contact the Kennel Club or the Dogs Trust at these web addresses:

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/training/get-started-in-dog-training/>

<https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/help-advice/factsheets-downloads/basicdogtrainingfactsheet.pdf>