How to negotiate the beach in summer

WALKING in the summer is very different to walking in the winter. In the cold weather there are not so many dog walkers. It’s easier to pick a time and possibly not meet anyone else on the beach. But in the summer, there may be more dog owners. It’s time to be patient and allow everyone the chance to enjoy their beach walk.

Summer temperatures can be more hectic. There are children playing in the sand and in the water. There are games of frisky or football and worst of all for the dog walker.....there are Picnics.

Lots of people are on holiday and take their dog with them so there are unfamiliar dogs to get past well. When you know a dog you know if it’s friendly or not. But when you meet a dog you don’t know then you don’t know whether it will play nice with your dog or attack you. The best way to stay safe and stay out of trouble on the beach is to keep your dog on a lead and walk it off in the right way. It all starts before you leave the house.

Take your dog out to the garden to do its toilet business. If it doesn’t want to go then maybe try playing a game with it so that the excitement will make it stop in the middle of the game and do it’s business. Excitement is mostly what makes dogs go to the toilet on the beach. There is no need for a dog to go to the toilet at the beach in general but if you get caught out then it is important that you clean up after your dog. There are little poop bags on a roll that attach to your lead that are very handy. You can buy them in a pet shop. Alternatively, you can just bring any plastic bag with you in your pocket. You may need to bring a couple just in case. It’s your dog so it’s your poop.

As there are still no bins at many beaches you can put the bag in any public bin you find or take it home with you (which is disgusting and there should be no need to do that). This does not only apply to beaches. Anywhere you take your dog for a walk should be the same way it was when you arrived. No rubbish and no po.

There is nothing more upsetting or offensive to people than to see a dog go to the toilet on a grassy or paved area that is shared by others and then see the owner just leave what fell out of the dogs behind lying on the road between them as if it was totally acceptable. Leaving poop lying around spreads diseases for animals and people alike. Pick up your dogs poop. People notice these things even though they may not say anything at the time to the person that walked off from the scene of the dump.

This is something that gives dogs a bad name. Back to the beach. Make sure your dog is calm when it gets out of the car, this may take a while in the beginning. Keep it on a lead if it is not 100% under your control. If it does everything you say then keep it beside you for the first 5 mins or so and then give it permission to have a run around.

If you see another dog or a person out for a walk then call your dog back and put it on the lead until the other person has passed or just let the dog beside you. Release it when the others have passed and then you and your dog will enjoy your walk and other people will feel respected.

Pet's Corner... with Kathleen Murray

Home and Away with Robert Walshe

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Robert Walshe is a travel broadcast on Q Radio Network & Travel Editor for numerous print & online publications on the island of Ireland. www.robertwalshe.com

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Clean up your dog’s business - pet shops sell poop bags.

*terms and conditions apply.