PE2087/C: Pass a law making exercising a dog in a cemetery an offence

Glasgow City Council written submission, 10 April 2025

In reference to the above petition Glasgow City Council, Neighbourhoods, Regeneration & Sustainability, Bereavement Services have responsibility for 26 cemeteries and graveyards across the city in addition to the extensive grounds of two crematoria.

Our current management Cemetery management rules advise that:

'Only dogs controlled by a lead less than 2 metres long are permitted in the Cemetery.

Under the provisions of the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 a person in charge of a dog must ensure that any dog excrement is picked up and either removed from the Cemetery or deposited in a bin within the Cemetery.'

The vast majority of dog walkers are respectful in their use of the cemeteries though we have recently had to take enforcement action within our cemeteries due to non-compliance with the management rules and issue dog fouling penalty notices. This has also included installing additional signage at all locations advising of dog owner responsibilities as well as their consideration and respect for the cemetery/graveyard they are utilising.

Glasgow City Council, Bereavement Services would welcome the opportunity to participate in any further, national, discussion around the issue of dogs accessing cemeteries including the challenges around enforcement, awareness raising with citizens and the ability for residents to access locations which may be their only area of open space within the vicinity for their exercise and general health and wellbeing.

Glasgow Cemetery Management Rules:

https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/media/3136/Cemetery-Management-Rules/pdf/Cemetery Management Rules.pdf?m=1699445015280#:~:text=6.2%20No%20persons%20shall%20enter,as%20agreed%20by%20the%20Council