

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

Aberdeenshire Council written submission, 6 May 2025

Aberdeenshire Council Cemetery Rules state the following :

“Dogs must be on a lead at all times. Any dog fouling must be removed immediately and disposed of in a bin.”

This signage is displayed in the cemetery notice boards of all our cemeteries. All our cemeteries have litter bins for mixed waste and it is acceptable to put dog fouling in these.

We have low incidence of complaints regarding dogs in cemeteries. We have received one formal complaint in the period 1 January 2020 to 10 April 2025.

We agree that cemeteries should not be treated as exercise areas. By only permitting dogs on leads, we acknowledge, as does the Petitioner that people have great emotional attachment to their dogs and often the dog is taken to the cemetery to visit the resting place of their human family member as this can give comfort to the deceased's friends and relatives.