

Frequently Asked Questions – Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control) 2026

1. What is a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)?

A PSPO is a legal order made by the Council to help prevent behaviours in public places that have a negative impact on people's quality of life. This PSPO focuses on responsible dog ownership in public spaces across Cannock Chase District.

2. Why is the Council proposing this Dog Control PSPO?

The Council believes that certain dog-related behaviours in public places have had, or are likely to have, a persistent and unreasonable impact on local people's quality of life. The proposed measures are intended to address these issues fairly and proportionately.

3. When would the PSPO come into force and how long would it last?

If approved, the Order would come into force at 00:01 on a specified date in 2026 and would last for up to three years, unless extended in line with legislation.

4. Where would the PSPO apply?

The PSPO would apply to public land that is open to the air and where the public are entitled or permitted to access, with or without payment. Some specific restrictions apply to particular locations, such as highways and children's play areas.

Dog Fouling

5. What are the rules about dog fouling?

Anyone in charge of a dog must:

- Remove dog faeces immediately if their dog fouls in a public place; and
- Carry a suitable bag or receptacle for removing dog waste and show it if requested by an authorised officer.

Failure to do either would be an offence.

6. Are there any exemptions from dog fouling rules?

Yes. The dog fouling requirements do not apply to:

- Assistance dogs; and
- People who are registered as blind or partially sighted.

There is also a general exemption where a person has a lawful or reasonable excuse or landowner consent.

Dogs on Leads

7. When must dogs be kept on a lead?

Dogs must be kept on a lead (no longer than 2 metres):

- On all public highways, including footways and verges within 3 metres of the highway; and
- In any public place if an authorised person directs the person in charge to put the dog on a lead.

Failing to do so would be an offence.

8. Who can ask me to put my dog on a lead?

An “authorised person” includes:

- Council authorised officers;
 - Police constables; and
 - Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).
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Dog Exclusion Areas

9. Where would dogs be excluded under the PSPO?

Dogs would be excluded from enclosed:

- Children’s play areas;
- Tennis courts;
- Multi-use games areas;
- Skateboard parks;
- Cycle (BMX or pump) tracks; and
- War memorials.

These locations are listed in Schedule 1 of the Order

10. What happens if I take my dog into a dog exclusion area?

Allowing a dog to enter or remain in an excluded area would be an offence, unless an exemption applies.

Number of Dogs

11. Is there a limit on how many dogs one person can walk?

Yes. A person would not be allowed to have more than **six dogs** in their charge at any one time in public places covered by the Order.

Exemptions and Definitions

12. Are assistance dogs exempt from the PSPO?

Yes. Assistance dogs, as defined under the Equality Act 2010, are exempt from all restrictions in the Order.

13. Who is considered “in charge” of a dog?

A person who habitually has a dog in their possession is considered in charge, unless another person is clearly in charge at that time.

Enforcement and Penalties

14. What are the penalties for breaching the PSPO?

If convicted in court, a person could face a fine of up to **£1,000**. Alternatively, an authorised officer may issue a **Fixed Penalty Notice of £100**, allowing the offence to be discharged without court action.

15. How will the PSPO be enforced?

The PSPO would be enforced by authorised Council officers, the police, and PCSOs, using a proportionate and reasonable approach.
