



## Canicross, Dog Walking, & Outdoor Training Risk Assessment

Thank you for choosing **Woodland Pet Services** (herein referred to as 'WPS')! This assessment is concerned with identifying the hazards (i.e. things which might go wrong or cause an accident/injury), evaluating the likelihood of a particular event occurring (i.e. level of risk) and putting measures in place needed to reduce or eliminate the risk. This risk assessment should be considered in conjunction with any risk assessment associated with the physical venue. Please take the time to familiarise yourself with the control measures that have been put in place to ensure these are effective in helping to mitigate the risk to both you and those around you.

### Risk Assessment for WPS on Military Land (Ash Ranges including Tunnel Hill and surrounding areas) and Alice Holt Forest

Purpose:	Use of Military and Forestry Commission Land for Dog Training/Walking purposes
Company:	Woodland Pet Services
Assessment Performed By:	Elisa K Green
Date Assessment Performed:	February 22, 2021
Date of Last Review (Current Revision):	April 1, 2024
Date of Next Review:	April 1, 2025
Primary Hazard:	Risk of causing nuisance and/or harm/injury to civilians, military personnel, cyclists, walkers, or canines
Who might be Harmed?	<b>Trainers, Handlers, Canines</b> and anyone else who may come into contact with WPS staff or handlers during the delivery of these services

woodlandpetservices.com  
info@woodlandpetservices.com  
07771 662800



Emergency Information

Nearest A&E Hospital – Ash Ranges (Name):	Frimley Park Hospital		
Nearest A&E Hospital – Ash Ranges (Address):	Portsmouth Rd, Frimley, Camberley GU16 7UJ		
Nearest A&E Hospital – Alice Holt (Name):	Royal Surrey County Hospital		
Nearest A&E Hospital – Alice Holt (Address):	Egerton Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 7XX		
Primary Contact:	Elisa K Green	Mobile:	07771 662800
Emergency Contact:	Richard ID Green	Mobile:	07786 747697



## Canicross, Dog Walking, & Outdoor Training Risk Assessment

Hazard	Possible Outcome/Injury	Mitigation	Who?
<b>Risks associated with Dog Walking Activities</b> on MOD Access Managed & Forestry Commission Land	<b>Causing a Nuisance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severity-Medium</li> <li>Likelihood-Low</li> </ul>	Trainers/Handlers will have no more than 6 dogs under their control at any one time. Each dog must have its own lead (no more than 2 retractable leads in use at any one time), dogs must wear a collar with ID tag & be micro-chipped. Canines must always be kept in sight and under control - any dog whose obedience cannot be guaranteed will be kept on a lead and exhibit courteous behaviour to all users. A charged mobile phone will be available for emergency calls. A grid reference will be identified using What3Words in the case of emergency.	WPS
<b>Risks associated with Military Activities</b> including risks associated with; military exercises & manoeuvres, debris and fenced range danger area in the vicinity	<b>Interference and disruption of military exercise or manoeuvre</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severity-High</li> <li>Likelihood-Low</li> </ul> <b>Danger from military debris</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severity-High</li> <li>Likelihood-Medium</li> </ul> <b>Dog enters fenced Danger Area</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severity-High</li> <li>Likelihood-Low</li> </ul>	Trainers/Handlers will identify military users and adhere to any instructions given and be prepared to alter or move route. Military Debris will not be interfered with in any way and if necessary, routes will be altered to avoid any contact. Trainers/Handlers will not enter unauthorised danger areas. In the unlikely event a dog strays into a restricted area the Trainer/Handler will contact MOD & owner.	WPS
<b>Risks associated with Traffic Activities (Military / Forestry)</b>	<b>Collision with vehicle</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severity-High</li> <li>Likelihood-Low</li> </ul>	Dogs will be kept under control and on leads when vehicles are present.	WPS

woodlandpetservices.com  
 info@woodlandpetservices.com  
 07771 662800



## Canicross, Dog Walking, & Outdoor Training Risk Assessment

Hazard	Possible Outcome/Injury	Mitigation	Who?
<b>Risks associated with Members of Public/Other Leisure Users</b> including risks associated with; people/activities in area	<b>Threats from horse riders, other walkers and cyclists</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severity-Low</li> <li>Likelihood-Medium</li> </ul>	Trainers/Handlers will be aware at all time that other members of the public use the land & be prepared to alter route and/or put dogs on short lead as appropriate.	WPS
<b>Risks associated with Environmental Impact</b> associated with failure to control/contain dog mess/dog urine	<b>Serious ecological damage to plant and animal communities</b> Unhygienic practices also pose a potential health risk to all humans/canines (Parvo in dogs & Toxocariasis in humans). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severity-High</li> <li>Likelihood-Low</li> </ul>	Trainers/Handlers will collect dog mess (using biodegradable bags) and place in a transport bag until it can be disposed of properly and safely. Consideration will also be given to where dogs are allowed to urinate; especially when entering woodland and where entrances are adjacent to residential areas. All dogs walked will be fully vaccinated.	WPS
<b>Risks associated with Weather</b> including risks associated with; excessive heat, direct sunlight, rain, sleet/snow, thunder/lightening	<b>Heat stress injuries, sun burn, cold &amp; wetness</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severity-High</li> <li>Likelihood-High</li> </ul>	Trainers/Handlers will make an assessment as to the risk of extreme weather (hot/cold) prior to travel. Owners will be contacted in advance where special provision/cancellation is required. Where the risk of these activities is deemed to be manageable with appropriate control, Trainers/Handlers will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>follow the latest Heat Stress Index measures</li> <li>ensure the humans and dogs are well hydrated</li> <li>ensure sufficient protection from the sun and spend as little time as possible in direct sunlight</li> <li>wear protective clothing and footwear</li> <li>dry dogs as best as possible after walk</li> </ul>	WPS

Woodlandpetservices.com  
 info@woodlandpetsetvices.com  
 07771 662800



## Canicross, Dog Walking, & Outdoor Training Risk Assessment

Hazard	Possible Outcome/Injury	Mitigation	Who?
<b>Risk of slips, trips, falls, overhanging branches and inclines</b>	<b>Cuts, abrasions, sprains, strains, breaks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severity-High</li> <li>Likelihood-Medium</li> </ul>	Trainers/Handlers will remain vigilant to both natural hazards and hazards associated with military activities/debris. Trainers/Handlers will take actions to ensure that humans/canines do not come into contact with these hazards. A First Aid kit will be carried on all walks.	WPS
<b>Risk of Injury/Illness</b> associated with; animal bite/encounter or snake bite/encounter	<b>Physical harm</b> leading to, but not limited to the following possible symptoms nausea, vomiting, faintness and/or dizziness, drowsiness, weakness. Swelling, blistering, bruising, bleeding, of skin and tissues. Shock and/or collapse, death. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severity-High</li> <li>Likelihood-Low</li> </ul>	Trainers/Handlers will assess the injury and implement emergency action plan. In the event of snake bite, the Trainer/Handler will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>keep the part of your body that was bitten as still as possible</li> <li>note the colour and pattern of the snake to tell the doctor</li> <li>take off any jewellery and loosen clothes near the bite</li> <li>contact the emergency services accordingly</li> </ul>	WPS
<b>Risk of Inappropriate Dog/Human Interaction</b> including overexcitement when interacting with people	<b>Frustration and/or Physical harm</b> including, but not limited to intimidation, knocking people over, bites and other injuries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severity-High</li> <li>Likelihood-Low</li> </ul>	WPS will pre-screen all dogs prior to walking; appropriate measures are implemented to support reactive dogs, dogs displaying aggressive tendencies/behaviours are not walked. Dogs without proper social skills are always kept under control. Trainers/Handlers will put dogs on a short lead as and when circumstances require and if the dog becomes over excitable.	WPS
<b>Inability to Retrieve or Lost Dog</b>	<b>Temporary or Permanent loss of client dog</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severity-High</li> <li>Likelihood-Low</li> </ul>	Trainer/Handler will only allow dogs off lead with the owner's consent, only with visible range & if the dog's recall has been established.	WPS

woodlandpetservices.com  
 info@woodlandpetservices.com  
 07771 662800





Canicross, Dog Walking, & Outdoor Training Risk Assessment

Hazard	Possible Outcome/Injury	Mitigation	Who?
		<p>All dogs must wear a collar with the name, phone number and address of the owner and/or dog walker inscribed on it or a plate or badge attached to it and/or chipped to prove ownership.</p> <p><b>In the event of loss:</b> Trainer/Handler will notify the dog owner, insurance company &amp; Surrey Heath dog warden. Trainer/Handler will inform the Ops room.</p>	
<b>Risks associated with Lone Walking</b>	<p><b>Physical harm</b> including, but not limited to; slips, trips, falls, cuts &amp; abrasions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severity-Medium</li> <li>• Likelihood-Low</li> </ul> <p><b>Personal risk</b> including, but not limited to; getting lost or being approached, abducted or assaulted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severity-High</li> <li>• Likelihood-Low</li> </ul>	<p>Trainers/Handlers will ensure that a charged mobile phone (with appropriate protection from the elements) is available at all times. Appropriate PPE including; waterproof clothing, footwear, first aid kit, food &amp; water will be available as required.</p> <p>An appropriate contact will be aware of the location and timings of walks. Trainers/Handlers will not wear headphones to maximise awareness of surroundings, people and vehicles.</p>	WPS
<b>Protection/Preservation/ CONSERVATION</b> of protected species including; wildlife flora and fauna, ground nesting birds, adders	<p><b>Disturbance of protected species</b> causing drop in numbers, damage to nests and internationally important habitats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severity-High</li> <li>• Likelihood-Low</li> </ul>	<p><b>All activities will centre around main thoroughfares/ paths and keep dogs will be kept out of vegetation. Between March to mid-September.</b></p> <p>All warning signs will be observed. Dogs will not be permitted to transit areas where signs warning of protected species are in the area. Trainers/Handlers will be familiar with SSSI / SPA sites to avoid disturbance.</p>	WPS

Woodlandpetservices.com  
 info@woodlandpetservices.com  
 07771 662800



## Canicross, Dog Walking, & Outdoor Training Risk Assessment

Hazard	Possible Outcome/Injury	Mitigation	Who?
		Trainers/Handlers will be aware of the dangers of fires during hot spells and be vigilante to ignition sources. Where an potential ignition source is identified the SEOPS Room will be contacted: 01420 483405. In the event of fire, the Trainer/Handler will remove themselves and the canines under their care to safety and contact 999 using What3Words to provide a location.	

While all reasonable measures have been taken to ensure that this document addresses the most common hazards; we respectfully request that any individual using this risk assessment continues to apply common sense and remains alert to any further hazards that may arise during the course of these activities. It remains the responsibility of each individual to ensure that they understand and observe the mitigations put in place and take the appropriate steps to safeguard/protect themselves at all times. WPS cannot be held responsible for the failure of any individual to adhere to the controls outlined within this risk assessment and/or any exposure whilst undertaking any of these activities.

### Reference:

[www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

Woodlandpetservices.com  
 info@woodlandpetsetvices.com  
 07771 662800