

Carlton Cricket Club

Dog-Walking Membership Frequently-Asked Questions



Please read in conjunction with the Non-Playing Membership FAQ which provides general information about the club. This document, answers questions frequently posed regarding dog-walking membership. If something isn't covered, please contact the Membership Secretary.

Club members may exercise their dogs (responsibly!) on payment of the appropriate fee. But what do we mean by "responsible" and why do we allow dogs on the cricket ground ?

Guidance included in this document is formalised in the club's rules. Membership can be withdrawn if guidance is not followed.

Why is there a higher charge for dog-walking ?

Dog-walking members are our most frequent users of the ground and, apart from cricketers (who pay significantly more) gain most from their membership, thus justifying a higher annual fee.

Do I pay more if I have two dogs ?

A few members have more than one dog but we don't charge a higher amount. If a member was to turn-up with Grange Loan's version of "101 Dalmatians", we might have to reconsider.....

Dogs must be kept under reasonable control whilst on the ground, so please :

- *don't allow your dog to harass other users of the ground (human or canine) – keep your dog on a lead if it is going to cause problems for members or for our groundstaff, or if you fear it may run through the gate if it is opened by another member.*
 - *keep your dog off the square (see the "Where Can I Walk My Dog ?" section below)*
 - *clean-up after your dog*
 - *don't allow your dog to dig holes*
 - *if you cannot keep up with your dog and keep it under control - Keep it on a Lead. You may wish to use a long or extendable lead to allow your dog more freedom, but still remain under your control*
 - *When cricket training is underway, please keep your dog on a lead and keep to areas not being used by cricketers - refer to the "When will cricketers be using the ground ?" section below*
 - *We've had dogs ruining brand-new cricket balls (they're not cheap), urinating on cricketers' bags / cricket equipment, stealing snacks from children, tearing-up clothing, interrupting matches and training sessions.....*
 - *please keep clear of Exercise Classes. A significant attraction of the ground for personal training is the opportunity to exercise outdoors so please give Exercise Classes a wide berth too.*
 - *walking around socialising, or with your mobile phone glued to your ear, whilst not paying attention to what your dog is doing does not constitute responsible dog-walking !*
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Clearing-up after your dog :

We rely on the diligence of our dog-walking members clearing-up after their dogs :

- *it is your responsibility to clean-up after your dog anywhere on the ground at all times – within or beyond any marked boundary. Be particularly vigilant when it's dark and you might not spot where your dog has been – keep your dog on a lead if you can't see where it is*
 - *a bin is provided for disposal of dog-waste (to your left as you enter the ground). Do not dispose anywhere else such as other bins or buckets or throw into the hedges or into our neighbours' gardens - Disgusting!*
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Don't let your dog dig holes :



Dogs digging holes in the outfield is a danger to our cricketers and all users of the ground. It is exasperating for our volunteer groundstaff to repair holes only for them to be re-excavated.

- *from “The Laws of Cricket” MCC :*
2.7.2 *Conditions shall be regarded as dangerous if there is actual and foreseeable risk to the safety of any player or umpire*

Do not allow your dog to wander off unsupervised to damage the turf when you're not looking !

To avoid damage to machinery :

- *please remove sticks, balls and toys from the ground – dogs love them but grass-cutting machinery doesn't*
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When will cricketers be using the ground ?

Between April and early September, cricket activities can be expected on the ground according to a published schedule – and, of course, weather-permitting !

During these times, common-sense restrictions are necessary to allow the club's dog-walking fraternity and our cricketers fair – and safe – use of the ground.

- *Cricket balls are hard and can be dangerous projectiles :*
 - *being distracted by dogs puts cricketers at risk*
 - *dogs are at-risk of being injured by cricket balls*

Keeping our cricketers, dogs and dog-owners safe has to be our main priority – both during matches and whilst training activities are underway.

Are dog-walkers welcome when matches are in progress ?

All members, dog-walkers included, are welcome to attend matches – to watch the great game, enjoy the surroundings and the summer sunshine (hopefully!) and, when the bars is open, enjoy a drink too.

There are some simple rules :

- *Keep your dog on a lead*
 - *Stay outside the white-painted boundary line*
 - *Don't let your dog into the pavilion and keep them away from food & drink*
 - *If the bowler is running away from you – and the batter facing towards you - don't walk in front of the white wall. Just wait until the players swap around. Ask any nearby cricketer for guidance if you're not sure.*
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*Details of **senior matches** are included on the annual Membership Card.*

*Details of week-day **junior fixtures** and **training sessions** are posted on the Notice Board to the right of the dog-bin and are available on www.pitchero.com/clubs/carltoncc/calendar*

This schedule will be subject to change as the season progresses due to fixture rescheduling, progress in cup competitions and other factors.

So when, exactly, can I expect cricketers to be using the ground ?

*1. **Cricket Matches** : (see Membership Card and Notice Board for details)*

- *most Saturday and Sunday afternoons between mid April and early September*
 - *normally 12 noon or 1 pm start, scheduled to finish by 7 pm*
- *some Saturday / Sunday mornings*
- *occasional week-day fixtures*
- *mid-week evening fixtures*
 - *a limited number of senior matches on weekdays use the whole ground starting at 6 pm*
 - *Junior matches normally use a smaller outfield, leaving more room for responsible dog-walking*

Dogs can be walked on a lead outside the marked boundary when matches are in progress

2. Cricket Training (April – August)

The Training Schedule is flexible, but normally follows a similar pattern. For guidance, a sample schedule is shown here :

Training Session : Under 12 Training Sessions : Cricket Matches				
<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thu</u>	<u>Fri</u>
				1st : 1pm-6pm 6pm Match U12
4th : 5pm-6.30pm 6.30pm-8.30pm 6pm Match U14	5th : 5pm-8.30pm 6pm Match: 5th XI	6th : 5.15pm-7.50pm 6:30pm-8:30pm	7th : 5pm-8.30pm	8th : 1pm-6pm 6pm Match U12
11th : 5pm-6.30pm 6.30pm-8.30pm 6pm Match U13	12th : 5pm-8.30pm	13th : 5.15pm-7.50pm 6:30pm-8:30pm	14th : 5pm-8.30pm	15th : 1pm-6pm 6pm Match U12
18th : 5pm-6.30pm 6.30pm-8.30pm 6pm Match U14	19th : 5pm-8.30pm 6pm Match 1st XI Masterton Trophy	20th : 5.15pm-7.50pm 6:30pm-8:30pm	21st : 5pm-8.30pm	22nd : 1pm-6pm 6pm Match U12
25th : 5pm-6.30pm 6.30pm-8.30pm 6pm Match U14	26th : 5pm-8.30pm	27th : 5.15pm-7.50pm 6:30pm-8:30pm 6pm Match Women 2nd XI	28th : 5pm-8.30pm 6pm Match 1st XI Masterton Trophy	29th : 1pm-6pm 6pm Match U12

When cricket training is in progress, please keep your dog on a lead and stick to areas not being used by cricketers. This not only avoids interfering with cricket practice, but keeps dogs and their owners safe.

Training normally takes place in and around the nets in the south-eastern corner of the ground or on the square.

Training times are publicised on the Notice Board and on the club's website so you can plan ahead, particularly **training sessions for our youngest cricketers** when dogs are not permitted

Members can also view the club calendar in Pitchero : www.pitchero.com/clubs/carltoncc/calendar
On request, members can be sent an email of forthcoming activities on the ground.

Marked in Red....are Under 12 training sessions. These can be noisy, busy events where much of the ground is in-use and is best avoided by dog-walkers - and other members interested in preserving their hearing.

For our youngest cricketers :-

Carlton Cubs cricket sessions : typically Friday 5 pm – 5:45pm : May, June & August

These sessions are for our youngest cricketers. We are keen to ensure children are introduced to cricket in a safe environment without distractions, so please avoid dog-walking during these limited times.

3. Cricket Camps

Cricket camps are held during the Easter and Summer school holidays (typically 9 am – 12 noon / 1pm to 4 pm) when dog-walking with a lead is permitted.

Other situations to watch out for

Grass cutting :

Please avoid obstructing the cutting of the outfield. It is cut in a carefully planned procedure in order to ensure all areas are cut whilst minimising time and fuel

Weed-Spraying :

On rare occasions, the ground is sprayed for weeds. A sign will be posted indicating the short period when the ground will be closed to dog-walkers for health reasons

Social Functions :

We also run occasional functions on certain evenings during the season when food is available (barbecues, pizza nights etc.). We would discourage dogs from visiting during these events – too much temptation for some of our greedier canine members !

As you will have gleaned from this document, combining the activities of the cricket club and the desires of our dog-walking members requires compromise and understanding from both sides.

You are welcome to contact the Membership Secretary (details below) with any concerns.

The intention is to ensure that both parties concerns are aired, understood and considered. Indeed, the contents of this document reflect an ongoing constructive dialogue between our dog-walking and cricketing membership.

If you have any additional questions, please contact :

Brian Forrester, Membership Secretary
Carlton Cricket Club
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Edinburgh EH16 6LJ
0131 664 4855



membership@carltoncc.co.uk

Appendix: Keeping Off The Square :

Why is the “square” so important? Why should dogs (and people) stay clear ? Why isn't it fenced-off if it is so important ?

Imagine a cricket match is taking place and you're batting. A 6 foot 5 inch fast bowler is sprinting towards you, hurling a hard ball in your direction from 20 yards away at over 80 mph. The ball bounces a few yards in front of you.

If the surface is uneven, the ball might bounce in an unexpected way - scuttling along the ground into the stumps you're supposed to be defending or, even worse, rearing-up towards your chest or head.

This is why our ground-staff take great care to prepare wickets that provide a predictable bounce. Their time and effort is considerable - seeding, fertilising, top-dressing, scarifying (raking), watering, cutting, rolling, ...hours of toil. Their aim is to produce a solid, predictable playing surface ensuring a fair contest between batter and bowler and - crucially - safe. Indeed, umpires are required to judge the quality of wickets and can abandon matches if they consider conditions to be dangerous.

Damage to the grass on the square from a cricketer slipping or a dog's claws has to be repaired by our groundstaff - reseeding, filling and rolling. Even when the grass has grown through, the repaired area might look ok, but won't be as firm as

the surrounding area. The aforementioned 80+ mph delivery might still keep low or rear-up dangerously.

The request to stay off the square applies during the cricket season, but it's also important over the close season when the square will be softer and more easily damaged. In September, post-season remedial work is undertaken on the square – spiking, reseeding then top-dressing with new soil. Following this process, the square is particularly vulnerable. It will be unusually soft and has to be left undisturbed for the grass to germinate. Undisturbed, this should produce the binding root-growth needed to hold the soil together to produce good playing conditions in the following season.

If the square is so vulnerable, why don't we take greater steps to protect it? A fair question. We will rope-off the square after remedial work is undertaken in the Autumn. Fencing during the season or during pre-season preparation (from as early as February) is impractical as this would interfere with the groundstaff's work – and still might not stop our more agile canine members.

If you think dog-walkers are being singled-out, this is far from being the case. Woe betide any cricketer seen by the groundstaff treading on the square unless a match is in progress. No-one would dare drag a cricket bag across the square. Carefully walking onto the square to retrieve a stray practice-ball is tolerated (but only just!).

So “Please Keep Off The Square” –make it a habit for you and your dog to only use the rest of the ground – there's plenty of room.