



Park Pals – Risk Assessment Statement

Park Pals sessions take place in public spaces where dogs, adults, children, and members of the public may be present. To ensure safety and welfare, Good Buoy Dog Training conducts ongoing risk assessments before and during each session.

1. Environment & Location

- Training areas are assessed for hazards such as traffic, uneven ground, wildlife, livestock, and public footfall.
- Weather conditions are monitored to ensure safe participation (e.g., heat, ice, storms).
- A safe working distance is maintained between dogs, especially those who are reactive or nervous.

2. Dog Behaviour & Suitability

- All dogs must have a completed initial information and consent form before attending.
- Dogs with known reactivity, fear, or aggression are welcome but may be placed in a suitable group with appropriate spacing.
- Dogs showing unsafe behaviour may be asked to step back, use additional safety equipment, or attend a different class.

3. Children & Safeguarding

- Children under 18 must be supervised by a parent/guardian at all times.
- Dogs who are uncomfortable around children will be placed in adult-only groups.
- Safeguarding procedures are followed in line with Northern Ireland legislation.

4. Equipment & Handling

- Dogs must be on secure leads unless instructed otherwise.
- Retractable leads are not permitted due to risk of injury.
- Muzzles, if used, must be properly fitted and comfortable.

5. Health & Welfare

- Owners must disclose any health or behavioural issues that may affect safety.
- Dogs must be fit to participate and free from contagious illness.
- Water, rest breaks, and shade are provided where possible.

6. Public Interaction

- Park Pals operates in shared spaces; therefore, interactions with the public, children, and off-lead dogs may occur.
- Owners must maintain control of their dog at all times.

- The trainer will guide participants on safe positioning and spacing.

7. Emergency Procedures

- In the event of an incident, the trainer will prioritise safety and may pause or relocate the session.
- Owners consent to the trainer contacting a vet in an emergency.
- Any bite, injury, or safeguarding concern will be documented and handled according to policy.

8. Trainer Authority

- The trainer may adjust group composition, spacing, or activities to reduce risk.
- The trainer may remove any dog or handler whose behaviour compromises safety.
- Decisions are made with the welfare of all participants as the primary concern.