



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Responsible dog ownership in shared spaces

As summer approaches, Council is reminding residents about the importance of responsible dog ownership in our community's shared spaces, including beaches, parks and paths. These spaces are available for everyone to enjoy, including families, bike riders, horses, joggers and other walkers.

“We encourage dog owners to make use of the designated dog exercise areas in the Huon Valley. Regular exercise helps to keep dogs happy and healthy and can reduce your dog’s stress and nuisance behaviours,” said Mayor Sally Doyle.

To ensure residents and their dogs have access to off-lead exercise areas, Council has declared several dog off-lead but under effective control exercise areas. A list of these locations can be found on Council’s website:

<https://www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au/residents/pets-and-livestock/dog-management/>

Key points to respectfully use shared spaces:

1. Lead requirements: Dogs must be on a lead whenever they are in a public place, unless signed as an off-lead area.
2. Clean up after your dog: Always carry waste bags and dispose of them properly in provided bins.
3. Registration and identification: Ensure your dog is registered with Council and wears a collar with registration and ID tags. Dogs aged 6 months and older must be registered with Council.
4. Respect others: Be mindful of those who may be afraid of dogs or simply enjoying dog-free areas. Never allow your dog to approach another dog or person without their permission.
5. Training: Proper training ensures your dog responds to commands and behaves well in public. For your dog to be under effective control while in an off-lead area it must always remain near you, insight of you and be immediately responsive to your commands.

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"Responsible dog ownership allows everyone to enjoy our beautiful public spaces," said Mayor Sally Doyle. "By following these simple guidelines, we create a safe shared environment for all community members, whether they're dog owners or not."

For more information on your responsibilities as a dog owner, visit

<https://www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au/residents/pets-and-livestock/dog-management/>

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