

Dog Walking Contract

This is a template, not legal advice

This document is a general-purpose template provided for information only. It is not legal advice, it does not create a lawyer-client relationship, and nobody has reviewed it against your situation.

Laws differ by country, state and province, and they change. A clause that is standard in one place can be unenforceable — or illegal — in another. Terms that are ordinary between two businesses can be void in a consumer or employment context.

Read every clause before you use it, fill in every blank, and delete anything that does not apply. For anything high-value, unusual, or that you could not afford to lose a dispute over, have a qualified lawyer in your jurisdiction review it before it is signed.

How to use this template

1. Read it end to end and delete any clause that does not apply to you. Blanks are shown as a grey label on a line.
2. Need the other party to sign too, with an audit trail and a tamper-evident seal? That is what the paid product does.

Dog Walking Contract

This Dog Walking Contract (this "Agreement") is made on [Date] between [Dog owner's full legal name] of [Owner's address] (the "Owner", and that address, the "Home") and [Dog walker's full legal name or business name] of [Walker's address] (the "Walker").

The Owner engages the Walker to provide recurring dog walking visits to the dog described in clause 2, at the Home, on the schedule set out in clause 3 (together, the "Services"). Each visit is a walk of the length stated in clause 3, not an overnight stay: the Walker does not board the Dog, keep the Dog at the Walker's own home, or remain at the Owner's home outside the scheduled visit. This Agreement sets out that schedule, who is responsible if the Dog is walked off-leash, and what happens if a scheduled visit cannot go ahead.

1. The Parties and Their Contact Details

The Owner can be reached during each scheduled visit on [Owner's telephone number] and at [Owner's email address] , and shall tell the Walker of any change to these details as soon as it happens.

The Walker can be reached on [Walker's telephone number] and at [Walker's email address] . The Walker provides the Services as an independent contractor, not as an employee of the Owner, is responsible for the Walker's own taxes and insurance, and may walk other clients' dogs, including at the same time as the Dog, provided that doing so does not compromise the Dog's safety or the standard of care under this Agreement.

2. The Dog

The Walker agrees to walk the following dog (the "Dog"). The Owner shall complete these details before the first walk and shall tell the Walker immediately of any change to the Dog's health, medication or behaviour that arises during this Agreement.

The Owner warrants that the information given is accurate and complete, that the Dog is in good health so far as the Owner is aware, that the Dog's vaccinations and, where required by local law, licence are current, and that the Dog does not need close confinement or continuous supervision beyond what a walk of the length in clause 3 provides.

- (a) Name, breed and colour: [Dog's name, breed and colour]
- (b) Age, sex, and whether spayed or neutered: [Dog's age, sex, spayed or neutered]
- (c) Weight and distinguishing markings: [Dog's weight and distinguishing markings]

- (d) Microchip number and registry: [Microchip number and registry]
- (e) Licence or registration number, if any: [Licence or registration number]
- (f) Medical conditions, allergies and current medications, with dose and timing:
[Medical conditions, allergies and current medications, with dose and timing]
- (g) Vaccination status, including the date of the most recent rabies vaccination:
[Vaccination status and rabies vaccination date]
- (h) Recall reliability and response to voice commands:
[Dog's recall reliability and response to voice commands]
- (i) Behavioural notes, fears and triggers: [Behavioural notes, fears and triggers]

3. Recurring Walk Schedule

Beginning [Start date for recurring walks] , the Walker shall walk the Dog [Number of walks per week, e.g. five (5)] times per week, on [Days of the week walks take place] , at approximately [Approximate time of day for each walk] . Each walk lasts approximately [Length of each walk] and takes place at or from [Where walks take place, e.g. the neighbourhood around the Home, a nearby park] .

This Agreement continues on that recurring schedule until ended under clause 8. The Owner shall request any addition, cancellation or change to a scheduled walk by [How schedule changes are requested, e.g. text message to the Walker] at least [Notice required to change a scheduled walk, e.g. twelve (12) hours] before the affected walk. A change requested with less notice is accommodated only if the Walker is able to do so, and a walk not cancelled with the required notice is charged in full under clause 8.

Each walk includes:

- (a) a walk of the length and in the manner described above, on the leash and equipment required by clause 4;
- (b) waste clean-up along the route;
- (c) securing the Home on departure in accordance with clause 5; and
- (d) a short update to the Owner after each walk, by [How updates are sent, e.g. text message] .

4. Leash and Off-Leash Liability

The Walker shall keep the Dog on a leash at all times where a leash is required by law or by the rules of the location where the walk takes place, and shall use the leash, harness and collar described below unless the Owner provides different equipment for a specific walk.

The Owner [Write "permits" or "does not permit"] the Walker to let the Dog off-leash in locations where off-leash exercise is both lawful and permitted by the rules of that location, such as a designated off-leash area. Where the Owner permits off-leash exercise, the Walker shall let the Dog off-leash only where the Walker judges it safe to do so, taking into account the Dog's recall reliability described in clause 2, the location, and the presence of other people or animals.

Where the Dog is off-leash with the Owner's permission under this clause, the Walker is not liable for injury the Dog causes to a person, another animal or property, for the Dog escaping or being lost, or for any other consequence of the Dog being off-leash, except to the extent caused by the Walker's negligence or wilful misconduct in deciding to let the Dog off-leash or in supervising the Dog while off-leash. Where the Dog is required to be on a leash — whether because the law or the location's rules require it, or because the Owner has not given permission under this clause — and the Walker nonetheless lets the Dog off-leash, the Walker is solely liable for any injury, loss, escape or damage that results, regardless of fault, and clause 10's limit on the Walker's liability does not apply to that liability.

The leash, harness and collar to be used, and any locations where the Owner permits off-leash exercise, are as follows:

- (a) Leash, harness and collar to be used: [Leash, harness and collar to be used]
- (b) Locations where the Owner permits off-leash exercise, if any:
[Locations where off-leash exercise is permitted, or write "none"]

5. Access to the Home and Keys

Before the first walk the Owner shall give the Walker [Number of keys, fobs or access devices provided] keys or access devices, the alarm code and how to arm and disarm it — provided separately by [How the alarm code is passed on, e.g. in person at the first visit; do not write the code here] — and any further access instructions [Parking, gate or entry instructions]. The Owner shall tell the Walker immediately if a code changes.

The Walker shall keep all keys, codes and access instructions secure, shall not copy them, shall not label them with the Owner's name or address, and shall enter the Home only as needed for a scheduled walk. On leaving, the Walker shall lock the Home and

leave it exactly as found, other than any change made for the Dog's care.

If this Agreement ends or the Owner asks in writing, the Walker shall return all keys and access devices within

[Number of days to return keys after this Agreement ends, e.g. seven (7)] days. If a key or device is lost, the Walker shall tell the Owner immediately and shall meet the reasonable cost of replacing it and, where necessary, of re-keying the affected lock, subject to clause 10.

6. Emergency Veterinary Authorisation

If in the Walker's reasonable judgement the Dog is injured, unwell or in distress during or immediately after a walk, the Walker shall try to reach the Owner and shall take the Dog to the veterinarian named below or, if that practice is unavailable, to the emergency clinic named below. The Owner authorises the Walker to consent on the Owner's behalf to the examination, diagnosis and treatment the attending veterinarian considers necessary, up to a total of

[Maximum the Walker may approve without asking, e.g. \$300] . Above that amount the Walker shall obtain the Owner's approval before treatment proceeds, unless the veterinarian advises that a delay would put the Dog's life at risk or leave it in pain, in which case the Walker may approve the treatment needed to stabilise the Dog.

All veterinary fees, transport costs and related expenses are the Owner's responsibility, whether or not the Walker approved them and whether or not the Owner was reached first. Where the Walker pays any such amount, the Owner shall reimburse the Walker within [Number of days to reimburse the Walker, e.g. seven (7)] days of being shown the receipt.

If the Walker cannot reach the Owner within

[How long the Walker waits before escalating, e.g. one (1) hour] , the Walker shall contact [Emergency contact's name] on [Emergency contact's telephone number] (the "Emergency Contact"), whom the Owner authorises to make decisions about the Dog's care in the Owner's place.

The Dog's veterinary details are as follows, and the Owner authorises the practice named below to treat the Dog on the Owner's account and to release the Dog's records to the Walker:

(a) Veterinarian and practice name: [Veterinarian and practice name]

(b) Practice address and telephone number:

[Veterinary practice address and telephone number]

(c) Out-of-hours or emergency clinic:

[Emergency clinic name, address and telephone number]

(d) Pet insurance provider and policy number, if any:

[Pet insurance provider and policy number]

7. If the Walker Cannot Make a Scheduled Visit

If the Walker is unable to make a scheduled walk — through illness, an emergency, or any other reason — the Walker shall tell the Owner as soon as reasonably possible and, where practical, before the scheduled time of that walk.

Where the Owner has agreed in advance to a backup walker, the Walker shall ask [Named backup walker, or write "none"] to cover the visit, after telling the Owner. Where no backup walker is named or available, the Walker shall reschedule the missed walk to the earliest time both parties can agree, or credit the fee for that walk against the next invoice under clause 8, at the Owner's choice.

A walk missed because the Owner failed to provide access under clause 5, because the Home was unsafe to enter, or because severe weather makes the walk unsafe for the Dog is not the Walker's responsibility to reschedule or refund, though the Walker shall make reasonable efforts to do so.

8. Fees, Payment and Cancellation

The Owner shall pay the Walker

[Rate, e.g. \$20 per walk or \$350 per month for the schedule in clause 3] . Where the Owner books extra walks outside the schedule in clause 3, they are charged at [Rate for additional or one-off walks] . Walks on a public holiday are charged at [Holiday rate or surcharge] .

Invoices are issued [Invoicing frequency, e.g. weekly, in arrears] and payable within [Number of days to pay an invoice, e.g. seven (7)] days by [Accepted payment methods] . An invoice unpaid [Number of days before a late fee applies, e.g. seven (7)] days after it falls due carries a late fee of [Late fee] .

Either party may end the recurring schedule in clause 3 by giving [Notice to end the recurring schedule, e.g. two (2) weeks] written notice. A single scheduled walk cancelled with at least the notice required by clause 3 is not charged; one cancelled with less notice is charged in full unless the Walker is able to fill the slot from another client.

9. Behaviour, Bite History and Dangerous Dogs

Before the first walk, the Owner shall disclose any history of biting, snapping, lunging, resource guarding, fence-fighting, escaping or aggression towards people or other animals, and any designation of the Dog as dangerous, vicious or potentially dangerous by any authority. The Owner confirms that history to be:

[Any history of biting, aggression or escape, or write "none"] .

The Owner is responsible for, and shall indemnify the Walker against, any claim, damage, injury, loss or cost arising from the Dog's behaviour during a walk, including injury to the Walker, to any other person, to another animal, or to property, and including veterinary and medical costs, legal costs and income the Walker loses as a result — except to the extent the harm was caused by the Walker's own negligence or wilful misconduct, or by the Walker letting the Dog off-leash in breach of clause 4.

If the Dog behaves in a way the Walker reasonably considers dangerous to the Walker or to others, or if the Owner failed to disclose anything required by this clause, the Walker may end this Agreement immediately, after securing the Dog safely and returning it to the Home or handing it to the Emergency Contact under clause 6. Fees for walks already provided remain payable, and the Walker is not liable for the consequences of ending the Services in these circumstances.

10. Limitation of Liability and Insurance

The Walker shall provide the Services with reasonable care and skill and in accordance with the Owner's instructions. The Walker's insurance position is as follows:

[Walker's insurance and bonding, with insurer and policy number, or state that the Walker is not insured] .

The Owner confirms having been told this before signing.

Except to the extent caused by the Walker's negligence, wilful misconduct or breach of this Agreement (including clause 4), the Walker is not liable for the injury, illness, escape, loss or death of the Dog, for anything the Dog does while on a leash the Owner required, for injury to any other animal or person, for damage to the Home or its contents, or for any consequence of information the Owner did not disclose.

The Walker's total liability under this Agreement, other than liability arising under the third paragraph of clause 4, is limited to

[Limit on the Walker's liability, e.g. the fees paid under this Agreement in the preceding three (3) months] .

Neither party is liable to the other for indirect or consequential loss. Nothing in this Agreement limits any liability that cannot lawfully be limited, including liability for death or personal injury caused by negligence.

11. Governing Law and General

This Agreement and any dispute arising out of it are governed by the laws of [Governing law, e.g. the State of Colorado] . The parties submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of [Jurisdiction] .

This Agreement is the entire agreement between the parties about the walking of the Dog and replaces any earlier understanding on that subject. It may only be amended in writing signed by both parties. Neither party may assign it without the other's written consent.

If any provision of this Agreement is held unenforceable, the rest continues in force. A failure to enforce a provision is not a waiver of it. Notices under this Agreement may be given by email or text message to the contact details in clause 1 and take effect when sent.

12. Signatures and Effective Date

This Agreement takes effect on the date of the last signature below and continues on the recurring schedule in clause 3 until ended under clause 8. Clauses 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10 survive its end.

The parties may sign in counterparts and by electronic signature, each of which is an original and all of which together form one agreement. Each party confirms that they have read this Agreement, that the details entered in it are accurate, and that they have received a copy.

In agreement with the terms above, the parties have signed below on the dates written beside their signatures.

Dog Owner

Signature: _____

Printed name: _____

Date: _____

Dog Walker

Signature: _____

Printed name: _____

Date: _____