



## CASE STUDY 1: On-site dog training

### Summary

Initiating regular outdoor sessions with local dog trainers is a cost effective way to improve owner control, education and wider support for a particular site.

### Good practice

- Working in partnership with the dog community means the scheme is not seen as “anti-dog”.
- Sites where dogs can be safely trained in the outdoors are a valuable commodity that owners and trainers are keen to locate and use.
- Improved training and control reduces conflict for all, and is seen positively by owners as providing more effective freedom for their dog.
- When engaged in the right way, dog owners can become committed, long-term site supporters.
- Such approaches foster peer pressure within the dog-owning community for greater understanding and responsibility.



### Description

Following a chance encounter between a ranger and an irate dog owner (who was also a dog trainer), at Thames Chase in Essex, the Forestry Commission gave permission for a 6 month trial of on-site dog training, to reduce fouling on paths, increase use of designated areas and improve overall dog control.

The first session in December 2004 had 4 clients; 6 months later around 16 dog owners attended each week. The sessions remain popular, continue to this day, and were successful in reducing fouling on paths and increasing off-lead control.

Local FC staff believe facilitating a local dog group is a great way to encourage peer pressure for responsible behaviour. The group meets one day every week and runs classes for a range of abilities, including puppy classes and advanced training. There is minimal input from the Forestry Commission, cutting the grass area twice a year.



### For more information contact:

Luke Everitt – Community Ranger  
E [luke.everitt@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:luke.everitt@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

T 01708 642964  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/thameschase](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/thameschase)