

## Walks

Feel free to explore the estate with your dog and, as you explore, please follow a few common sense guidelines and be mindful of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. This helps us to keep the estate visitor and wildlife friendly and allows us to get on with our work.

We have waymarked trails that pass through diverse woodlands, rugged moorland and by spectacular rivers and waterfalls. These range from 1 – 10 miles and are illustrated in our walks leaflet, which is available for £1.50 from the Blair Atholl Information Centre, Caravan Park shop and Castle Shop. You can also find map boards, for the trails, at the estate information centre and at the Glen Tilt car park. All of the waymarked trails begin at the Glen Tilt car park.

### Some useful information about the trails for dog owners:

**Red Squirrel Walk** – there is a good chance of seeing a red squirrel on this short walk. Look for lots of activity around the two squirrel feeders. Please make sure your dog doesn't chase the squirrels.

**Banvie Burn Walk** – this is a lovely walk up the banks of a tumbling burn. Please take extra care of your dog as the gorge has steep sides.

**Woodend Walk** – this walk offers great views over farmland and across to Ben y Vrackie. Cows, and ponies graze peacefully in the adjacent fields.

**Farm and Forest Trail** – this walk passes through the home farm. Be aware that livestock could be moving between fields and that young animals may be nearby. Please keep your dog under close control near the farm.

**Glen Banvie Trail** – the 9 mile Glen Banvie Trail is a superb walk. This walk includes rivers, spectacular moorland and hill views, and the chance of seeing capercaillie or black grouse in mature scots pine forest. We are very lucky to have these rare and spectacular birds and must take extra care not to disturb them. Please follow the guidelines regarding control of your dog during the nesting season from April – July.

**Glen Tilt Trail** – This walk offers spectacular views up Glen Tilt and passes through grazing land used for hill sheep. Please keep your dog on a lead or under close control in this upland grazing area to avoid disturbing the sheep.

## Other good walks

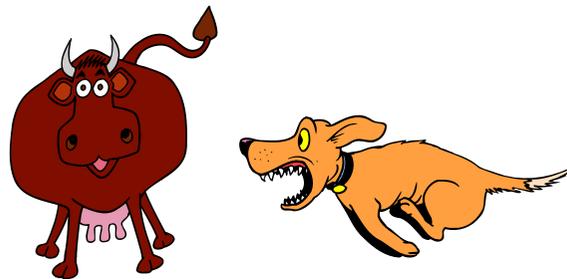
**Riverbanks** - 1.5 miles - start across the road from the Information Centre and enjoy a stroll along the riverbanks with your dog, following the red river waymarkers along the beautiful wooded banks of the River Tilt, with some good swimming spots. A dog bin is situated on the higher level path next to the caravan park.

**The Falls of Bruar** - 1.5 miles - another excellent walk with stunning views. The gorge has very steep sides so please take care. Start from behind the House of Bruar.

**Trails at Dunkeld and Logierait** - There are a network of trails starting from the Cally Car Park near Dunkeld that are also great for dog walks. Please be aware there are a lot of deer in this area and keep your dog under control. At Logierait (follow signs for Dunfallandy) there are another two trails to try with your dog.

## A working estate

Work on the estate includes farming, forestry, pony trekking and field sports. By keeping your dog under control you are unlikely to cause any disruption during your visit. Dogs that are not under control may cause accidents, damage to livestock and cause disruption to stalking or shooting. Your dog may also be in danger from estate vehicles, farming or forestry operations if it is not under proper control.



### Please follow these guidelines from the **Scottish Outdoor Access Code**:

- Never let your dog worry or attack livestock
- Do not take your dog into fields where there are lambs, calves or other young animals

- If you go into a field of farm animals, keep your dog on a short lead or under close control and keep as far as possible from the animals.
- If cattle react aggressively and move towards you, keep calm, let the dog go and take the shortest, safest route out of the field.
- Deer control can take place in forests all year round, often around dawn and dusk, please take extra care at these times.
- Please use the Hillphones service from 1<sup>st</sup> August – 20<sup>th</sup> October to find out where deer stalking is taking place on the open hill.
- Read any warning signs regarding forestry operations and take extra care as timber lorries and felling machinery may be operating in the area.

## Ground nesting birds

We are lucky that some nationally important bird species nest on the Estate. These include black grouse and capercaillie. These birds and many other woodland and moorland species nest on the ground and are vulnerable to predators such as foxes, pine martens and also **your dog**.



Please respect our native wildlife and keep your dog on a lead at nesting times. Even your dog being on the loose near a nest could cause the birds to abandon them. There are very few capercaillie left, so the loss of one nest of chicks would be very significant.

### The **Scottish Outdoor Access Code** gives the following guidelines:

During the bird breeding season (April – July), keep your dog under close control or on a short lead in areas such as moorland, forests, loch shores and the seashore.

## Doggy doings

Thank you in advance for cleaning up after your dog **and disposing of it in a dog bin/ litter bin**. We hold many children's events on the estate. It is dangerous and nasty for children on nature walks to find dog poo on their exploits! Free dog poo bags are available from Blair Atholl Information Centre at the front desk and at the Caravan Park reception. There are also two dog poo bins situated by the riverbanks and at the far end of the caravan park. If you do get caught out without a poo bag, at least use a stick to flick the dog waste under a bush and well off the path.



Please also be aware that not everybody likes dogs and that some people, especially children, may be scared of them. Although you know it is harmless, a boisterous dog running off the lead could spoil someone's day.

### Scottish Outdoor Access Code says:

- In recreation areas and other public places avoid causing concern to others by keeping your dog under close control or on a short lead.
- Pick up and remove your dog's faeces if it defecates in a public place

From the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003:  
"You are guilty of an offence if you fail to remove your dog's faeces from any public place and dispose of it properly" - £80 (from 01/04/2016)

## Useful Information

Dog poo bags are available free at the Blair Atholl Information Centre and the Caravan Park reception.

There are five dog poo bins, one halfway along the fence between the caravan park and the riverbanks and one at the opposite corner of the caravan park, two on the castle drive, and one at the village Information Centre. Elsewhere, please take your dog waste home or to the nearest litter bin.

The nearest vet to Blair Atholl is in Pitlochry  
Tel: 01796 472201  
For a vet in Dunkeld Tel: 01350 727999

For a fun day out with your dog, visit Glenmore Top Dog near Aviemore on Sun 30 July. Or why not bring your dog along to Blair Castle International Horse Trials, Thurs 24 – Sun 27 Aug 2017? There will be dog events, such as terrier racing, as well as lots of doggy things for sale.

For further information and advice please contact the ranger service [pf@atholl-estates.co.uk](mailto:pf@atholl-estates.co.uk), phone 01796 481355 or see us out and about.



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# Dogs welcome!



## Welcome to Atholl Estates

Atholl Estates is a diverse, working estate, full of exciting wildlife and spectacular scenery.

We welcome dogs with considerate owners and want to help you get the most from your visit.