



START YOUR OWN DOG WALKING BUSINESS GUIDE

This is a guide on how to start your own dog walking or sitting business in the UK provided free of charge from the association of Professional Dog Walkers and Sitters™.

CHECKLIST

- BUSINESS NAME:**
Try and choose a name that reflects your business and the area that you are covering, this will allow you to easily target geographical locations.
- BUSINESS BANK ACCOUNT**
Ideally you should have a separate account for your business as it is classed as an income, you may need to pay tax or other deductions.
- MAKE A DOG WALKING PLAN**
Make a plan of when you can walk the dog(s) so you can plan your working day and therefore give your customers timelines of when you are available.
- SOCIAL MEDIA**
Social Media such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are ideal tools for you to get your business going, so make good use of them.
- FIRST AID FOR PETS**
As a minimum take a basic Pet first aid course so you are equipped to deal with most minor injuries.
- INSURANCE**
You should have pet business insurance which should include public liability, injury to animals and loss or theft of keys as a minimum.
- CAR INSURANCE**
If you intend to pick dogs up and return them in your car, you should have business insurance added to your car policy.
- FOUR IS PLENTY**
If you are walking dogs try and avoid taking to many dogs on if you are walking them on your own, a good guide is no more than 4.
- WEBSITE**
A website is not essential, but it can be used to showcase what you do and is somewhere for potential customers to go to get more information about your business.
- JOIN AN ASSOCIATION**
A dog walking association is not essential but are usually a mine of information and can offer you further advice and support.

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