

Appendix E

Proposed Order Four

A person in charge of a dog on any public place within the Borough of Dacorum must comply with a direction given to them by a Constable or a person duly authorised by the Council to put and keep the dog on a lead (no more than 2m fixed length) unless:

- (a) they have reasonable excuse for failing to do so, or
- (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.

Failing to comply with such a direction is an offence.

Question 4. Do you agree or disagree with the proposed requirement that dogs must be placed on a lead if required by a Constable or an authorised officer within the areas shown on the map in Schedule 2?

Responses

Extendable Leads

- Leads should be of reasonable length and there is nothing wrong with an extendable one as the dog can still be under control.
The number of dogs under any one person should be addressed as this can be the source of uncontrolled dogs
- We sometimes use an extending lead which are generally accepted as a suitable means of restraining your dog and having them under control.
- An extending lead can be used and fixed at a 2 meter length or less. If a responsible dog owner has an extendable lead and is using it properly why should he have to carry another lead. As long as the lead can be fixed at 2 meters or less then they should be acceptable . If they are unable to fix the lead if requested to do so then they should be liable.
- Yes I agree....But it would mean that it would have to be made known that if you generally use an extending lead you must always have a short fixed lead available as well.
- Extendable leads can be locked in lengths shorter than 2M when required. When used responsibly they allow much better control of a dog than letting it off lead. Responsible owners using extendable leads are much less inclined to let their dog run off lead. A majority of dog walkers that use the same public spaces that I do use extendable leads. Many of these are elderly and an extendable lead allows them freedom to retain better control of their dog as they can't run after it or find the dog faeces further away. This proposal would mean that the use of extendable leads would be an offence and would encourage more owners to let their dogs run off lead rather than being kept on a short lead. This could potentially increase dog fouling and nuisance.
- Provided an extendable lead is fixed and not on flexible mode in areas requiring close control this is adequate. We have solely used extendable leads for many years with no issue when under close control fixed at a short length.
- Extendable leads can be made a fixed length if required. Many owners only have this type of lead.
- its stated in the proposal that the dog should be on a short lead in certain circumstances.I would like to know what those circumstances are.What's the difference between a dog off the lead and a dog on an extendable lead.At least when the dog is on an extendable lead there is some control,of lead there is none

- If a dog is on an extendable lead it gives the owner control. The lead can be fixed to a shorter length if the situation requires or has been asked to do so. It is very easy to shorten a lead of any length and I do not think that 2 metres is any safer on a footpath than ,say, 3 metres.
- I know some people always walk their dogs on an extendable lead (I don't as I think they are dangerous) so would this mean that they were always breaking the PSPO?
- I have an extendable lead and use that to keep my dog close at heel or to allow more exercise. What is going to happen if there is a problem and a dog owner does not have a fixed length lead of no more than 2 meters? How are the Police and Council Official going to deal with this? Prescribing the lead type and length is ridiculous any type of lead should be sufficient. An extendable lead that is kept short is a better way to control a dog than a 2 meter fixed length lead. How are Police and Council Officers going to deal with problems with dogs, in my experience the chances of them being anywhere near a dog that is causing a problem is very small. If they turn up at all it is long after any incident has occurred and any problem is over.
- Dictating the type and length of lead is unreasonable. Extendable leads can be locked so that the length is restricted - so if a person keeps the length of the lead reasonable, will they be in breach just because it is an extendable lead? A dog on an extendable lead is surely under more control than a dog that is not on a lead at all. This is a ridiculous proposal.
- I see no reason why a dog would not be considered as not under control on an extendable lead especially as these can be shortened to less than two metres and possibly down to one foot.
- If you restrict the length of the lead then responsible owners will have a dog on a short lead rather than an extendable lead which gives the owner control without the dog being out of control but restricts the dogs exercise
- This doesn't apply to me as I prefer short leads, when necessary. However, some people only use retractable leads. A more suitable requirement would be to make sure any extendable leads have a lock function
- I disagree with this because different dogs need different leads, and some dogs respond better on a harness to a collar. What is important is that the lead the dog is on is appropriate for their weight, i,e an Alsatian will need a more robust lead than a Spaniel etc. I don't think it is realistic or necessary for the local council to define this. Most responsible dog owners who have their dogs on leads are probably also responsible enough to have them on the correct ones. However with one exception; anyone walking a dog on an extending lead should not have the lead extended beyond say 15 metres when walking in a busy public place such as a high street.
- We use extending leads up to 8 meters, which are on a spring and allow the dog to be pulled close when required. This should be sufficient.
- I agree that where requested by a Constable or authorised officer, dogs should be placed on a lead. However, i feel that defining a lead as being of fixed length and of not more than 2m is not reasonable and not practical, unless the council can agree to the use of an extendable lead locked at 2m. As the owner of 2 dogs weighing 5kg each, i do not feel it is necessary to carry a lead of fixed length that is less than 2m as even at an extended length, i have enough control over my dogs on an extendable lead, especially as i am able to lock it to a particular length if desired/required. This proposed rule may be more appropriate for larger and stronger dogs, but owners of much smaller dogs who are able to be controlled more easily will be forced to carry at least 2 (in my case, 4) leads at all times of walking dogs, which seems overzealous in the application of these rules.
- extendable leads, if used properly, can be shorter than your requirement. With

extendable leads a dog can be kept under control, but still have room to sniff etc in longer grass where the owner might not want to walk. It boils down to a responsible owner as it does with all other dog issues.

- In a lightly used open space, extendable long leads can provide reasonable control but I agree the officer can specify a short lead if needed. However the owner may not have one with him or her. at that time
- See above, does this mean you have to carry an extender and fixed lead? Dacorum is already a very unfriendly place to have a dog - this could make it worse. Please do not confuse responsible dog owners who know when to keep a dog on a short tether, with those who act irresponsibly!
- Different types of walks require different leads. Some a long extendable, for keeping on lead in the park, others short for better heel control. As long as on a lead, what's the issue..
- for example, I use extendable leads attached by carabina to a walking belt which is perfectly sufficient to restrain my dog and be hands free
- Extendable leads should be allowed.
- I don't really disagree but just want to point out that whomever wrote this part has no clues whatsoever on how extending lead works!
- I think an extending lead that is locked on a short length should be deemed to comply with this rule otherwise many owners would have to carry two leads in case they were compelled to act under this rule.
- Whilst agreeing that extendable leads don't give full control of a dog, the proposal does not seem to make it a requirement to carry a fixed length lead in addition to an extendable lead and therefore be impractical.
- Length fine but not type. There's no difference between a fixed length lead of 2m and an extendable lead locked at 2m.
- I think saying a 2 metre lead is acceptable but I don't think stipulating the type of lead is. An extendable lead can still be secure and held at 2 metres.
- If an extendable lead can be locked at a short length then that should be allowed. If, however, after being asked to hold the dog on a short lead the lead is not kept short while still in the area where the dog was being a nuisance, and the extendable lead is allowed to extend then I would take that to be an offence.
- I have an extending lead for my dog and rein her in if need be. I don't believe dogs need to be on short leads all of the time but yes in areas where there are children or other dogs or shops etc. I do feel that people who have dogs on long lengths of rope need to have proper leads
- Agree flexible extending leads not effective means of control. However length of leads irrelevant if person on the end not able to effectively control dog ie not strong enough/insufficient training of dog and handler.
- An extendable lead can be locked into a short position. At most times when a dog is being walked it would be on an extendable lead and a short lead would not be available.
- I use an extendable lead which enables my dog to sniff about freely but I can control him and shorten the lead if I need to. Also my wife is disabled and walks the dog while on her mobility scooter. Without the extendable lead she could not do so safely.
- Problem dogs should not be on extendable leads whatever the length as the handler will not have proper control and the extending lead itself could cause injury to another person or dog
- I have slight concern on the length of lead as when training a dog it is normal to use a lead that can be locked as a short lead or released into an extending lead or alternatively a longer training lead that can be coiled up and used as a shorter lead. In both these cases the dog is under control and can be kept close to the handler.

- Defining the length of a fixed lead is fine as that is normally commercially available, to say that extending leads are not suitable is a bit harsh as they can be locked anywhere along their total length.

Most people who would take their dogs off lead on a field would not normally use an extending lead. Extending leads apply to pavement walkers in the main.

- My dog could not be exercised off a lead. His extendable one was more than 2 metres. We still had control of him at all time even on a longer lead. I would not have carried a smaller lead with me just in case i was told to not use his lead...
- I agree with the exception of the reference to extendable leads as these can be fixed at less than 2m
- Extending leads can exceed 2m and so long as owner in control full length of lead should be allowed
- If a dog is on an extendable lead it gives the owner control. The lead can be fixed to a shorter length if the situation requires or has been asked to do so. It is very easy to shorten a lead of any length and I do not think that 2 metres is any safer on a footpath than ,say, 3 metres.
- I see no reason why a dog would not be considered as not under control on an extendable lead especially as these can be shortened to less than two metres and possibly down to one foot.
- I disagree with this because different dogs need different leads, and some dogs respond better on a harness to a collar. What is important is that the lead the dog is on is appropriate for their weight, i,e an Alsatian will need a more robust lead than a Spaniel etc. I don't think it is realistic or necessary for the local council to define this. Most responsible dog owners who have their dogs on leads are probably also responsible enough to have them on the correct ones. However with one exception; anyone walking a dog on an extending lead should not have the lead extended beyond say 15 metres when walking in a busy public place such as a high street.

Lead Length

- A dog on a 3 or 4 metre lead is under control.
- I think saying a 2 metre lead is acceptable but I don't think stipulating the type of lead is. An extendable lead can still be secure and held at 2 metres.
- Two metres can be very restrictive for many dogs. Length of lead should be up to owner. I know many dogs who are walked on 10m leads so they can have the freedom to run but never be off lead which could cause the owner and people/dogs around issues.
- My dog could not be exercised off a lead. His extendable one was more than 2 metres. We still had control of him at all time even on a longer lead. I would not have carried a smaller lead with me just in case i was told to not use his lead...
- Of course. Whats the point of a lead which is metres long? That dog is not under proper control.

Agree

- Yes I agree....But it would mean that it would have to be made known that if you generally use an extending lead you must always have a short fixed lead available as well.
- My son is very affraid of dogs because he was attacked by dogs twice. I agree that every dog should be put on a lead with short length as some of dog owners have very long leads
- I agree that where requested by a Constable or authorised officer, dogs should be placed on a lead. However, i feel that defining a lead as being of fixed length and of

not more than 2m is not reasonable and not practical, unless the council can agree to the use of an extendable lead locked at 2m. As the owner of 2 dogs weighing 5kg each, i do not feel it is necessary to carry a lead of fixed length that is less than 2m as even at an extended length, i have enough control over my dogs on an extendable lead, especially as i am able to lock it to a particular length if desired/required. This proposed rule may be more appropriate for larger and stronger dogs, but owners of much smaller dogs who are able to be controlled more easily will be forced to carry at least 2 (in my case, 4) leads at all times of walking dogs, which seems overzealous in the application of these rules.

- In exceptional circumstances where a dog is out of control or indeed a danger I agree that that animal should indeed be on lead, however if the animal is causing no nuisance or inconvenience to others then I feel that the dictatorial attitude on what type of lead is to be used is yet again an infringement of right of choice
- In a lightly used open space , extendable long leads can provide reasonable control but I agree the officer can specify a short lead if needed. However the owner may not have one with him or her. at that time
- I do agree but cannot make a comment unless I dont!

It would be good if in large parks there could be a fenced off area as a dog park for training and running off lead.

- I don't really disagree but just want to point out that whomever wrote this part has no clues whatsoever on how extending lead works !
- Whilst agreeing that extendable leads don't give full control of a dog, the proposal does not seem to make it a requirement to carry a fixed length lead in addition to an extendable lead and therefore be impractical.
- Agree flexible extending leads not effective means of control. However length of leads irrelevant if person on the end not able to effectively control dog ie not strong enough/insufficient training of dog and handler.
- I agree with the exception of the reference to extendable leads as these can be fixed at less than 2m

Other

- A lead of any size is sufficient, This is once again unnecessary bureaucracy So you are basically going to punish people for having the wrong lead size There are a lot of elderly people who have dogs who may not be able to afford to purchase a new lead
- I think it is too difficult to be prescriptive some dogs require longer leads than others some have simple 'slip' leads.
- This is controversial distraction and undermines the whole dog fouling and control policy. It might also face a legal challenge supported with funds from dog supplies manufacturers. I would have to reject the whole policy if this was part of it
- All responsible owners will have in their possession adequate leashes.
- No this should be up to the owner. Are all constables etc going to be supplied with a tape measure. How stupid
- 2m is too short
- If A Person is in a wheelchair then a longer lead maybe required , but if a person is not physically impaired then this rule should be enforced
- I think that most sensible dog owners use leads appropriate for the size and strength of dog I don't think having a required length type of lead would do any good as most people good dog owners know their dog best and what suits them what is appropriate for one dog maybe not be appropriate for another
- Any lead can be reduced to 2m, unless the entire length is less than 2m, which makes the schedule pointless

- I
- Not practical - how can you define the type of lead when it may not be readily available to be used?

Think more of a general support would be required e.g. that the dog is put on a short lead and is required to be under control of the person on the other end.

- Who will be determining this ... is it the authorised officer ... what qualification has this person got to determine this information
- The animal may be recovery from illness that need exercise but also under control
- Majority of people only carry flexible leads . When asked they would put their dog on lead but its not a short lead so should not be committing an offence if they have done what's asked . A flexible lead keeps a dog under control while giving it decent exercise they can be shortened to control the dog more if asked to do so .
- Who decides what is an appropriate length. This whole thing just seems designed to get dogs out of public areas.
- Length of lead is a comfort issue for both the dog and owner.
- Not practicable- many dog owners, myself included, use a variable length lead of more than 2m length, and I have never experienced or heard of any issues with this. Why introduce a rule that is pointless to those it affects???
- Many dog owners use longer retractable leads which can be adjusted to suit appropriate length of lead. Limiting leads to 2m fixed is becoming unreasonable.
- Make sure you implement new laws with a fine and community service IE clearing up and monitor.

Don't just bring new law in.

- An owner should know what type and length of lead is required for their own dog
- Depending on the situation I feel 2m is not necessarily long enough. For example, if someone has a puppy or young dog it is advantageous to have a much longer lead in order to exercise and train the dog. Also, how would this work with flexi leads? They are much longer than 2m
- This needs more clarification. Is the definition of what counts as an appropriate lead to be widely publicised and fairly standard? Leaving it open to on the spot definition could be unfair. Might be easier to define what types/lengths of lead would be acceptable and what would not be
- Defining the length of lead is appropriate. There are many different breeds of dog and many different conditions, ailments or impediments that might befall the breeds. A type of lead that is suitable for an individual dog or breed of dog, might not be suitable for a different dog or breed of dog. Therefore, the type of lead should be at the discretion of the dog owner or person with the dog. However, if an Authorised Officer is of the view a type of lead being used on a specific occasion is inappropriate, the onus to prove the lead's suitability should rest with the dog owner or person with the dog; they will, or should, know why that particular lead is appropriate.
- Try putting your effort into repairing our paths and walk ways rather than dreaming up ideas of how to persecute people.
- i think you should be able to have a long line ,if you are training.
- A lead is a lead. As long as the dog is attached and under control the type of lead is irrelevant
- Too many petty rules and regulations!
- Too much unnecessary legislation, if people are fit to be dog owners they should be able to decide what type of lead is suitable for a particular dog.

- I think it's a bit heavy handed as part of initial measures. Many dogs - particularly rescues- learn boundaries and good by using long lines as part of their training. Not sure restricting an individual dog to a short lead in all circumstances is desirable or helpful.
- different dogs can be managed with different length and types of leads. A long lead may be appropriate instead of letting you dog off the lead. Where possible dogs should be allowed off their leads for animal health reasons.
- It's not the lead that's the issue it's having a suitable collar that can't be slipped
- As long as the dog is restrained on a lead it doesn't matter what type
- Dictation on how to treat your animal is inappropriate
- Because sometimes, especially when training or keeping a dog on a lead but wanting them to have some small freedom, a longer training lead is useful and one may only have that lead on one.
- I am 88 years of age, walk with a rollator and use a long lead on the moor to allow my small dog enough exercise. When on a pavement I use a short lead.
- Common sense must prevail as to what is a reasonable lead to be used. Defining the length and particularly the type of lead is unfair to the owner
- I think there should be recommendation first of all and or a deadline for this to change. It may be particularly difficult if an individual is out walking a dog. Also for those that may not be able to afford a new lead at the time might be disadvantaged and effected
- Dogs on retractable leads are still under control - it is also unreasonable to try to control people's personal purchases.
- Some dog can not be let off the lead due to past experience so to have the best life they can the have a extra long lead to have the distance to burn energy but still be on a lead for the owner to handle
- It's up to the owner to choose a lead
- This is ambiguous and could cause conflict
- Some dog owners that use te retractable lead don't seem to know how to use them they keep them on a long lead when in fact they should be on a short lead.
- Ridiculous
- Seems a little excessive to go to the depth of lead type and length
- As above .. dogs should be on a short lead along the canal path for health and safety reasons, as well as the ducks being on the grass. Long leads in open parks but under control. If an owner wants to let their dog off of the lead they should go to a dog area which is fenced off for dogs to run around and a person knows this and enters at their own responsibility.
- This is ridiculous.
- Who is to decide what is a good lead length?
Who will enforce it?
What next will you want to rule on how to clean a house's windows
- Realistically how will this be policed? I have never seen an officer while on a dog walk
- Many types of lead exist, all do same job. Should not create further costs to owners who have a different preference for a different type of lead
- I think that if a dog is on a lead then that should be sufficient enough, I do not see the need to dictate what type of lead a dog should be on.
- Some larger dogs require a more run room on a longer lead, so long as they are under the eye of the owner don't see why they need a shorter lead
- Some dogs are much bigger than others so wouldn't have as much slack on the leash compared to a miniature dog
- A lead is a lead, a flexi lead can be up to 5m, the key issue is that the dog is under

the control of the person in charge of it. the length of the lead by which they do it with makes no

- This is hard as I have no idea how long my shorter lead is ! Is the officer going to measure it ? And how will you enforce flexi leads?
I think the aim of this policy should be more explicit : owners should be able to control their dogs using a lead of an appropriate length.
- More info needed
- My dog is fine in a long lead 7m yes it enable me to control her and recall her so I don't see the need
- I think the length would be defined by the dog
- Some dogs ;;should be allowed some freedom on a longer lead if appropriate to the dog and circumstances.
- I don't think this is feasible
- Length maybe but not sure how type of lead will help and may cause issues
- Some dogs require leads that feel or behave as loose leads as the dog can become unhappy. On a lead is useful but specifying length may be difficult.
- As long as the dog is on a secure lead I don't see the need to be so prescriptive
- People just need to have a lead. You can't arbitrarily decide that a particular type / length of lead is not acceptable.
- That would be a difficult thing to define and prescribe. What happens if the person does not have a prescribed lead.
- how will ordinary people know of this?if they only have one lead and use it that should be as far as anyone should go
- Some dogs in training for recall need to be on a long lead
- As a dog owner if I am out with my dog I'll only have my usual lead so being told to use a specific lead isn't helpful. If this refers to future events as in the next time I am out with my dog it needs to be on a specific kind of lead then I guess I would have to comply but I think this needs careful wording.
- some dogs dont take well to long or short leads and certain types of leads
- The length of a lead I think is an issue, I have a long Roma lead for my dog as he cannot go off the lead so needs the long lead to run around, obviously when I need him to be in close control I shorten the lead but I am not going to put him on a different lead that would be ridiculous
- You're trying to dictate too much . Short leads around play areas and livestock is a reasonable request but in all crappy fields or woods is a joke
- I think the lead definition will be dog and situation specific. To place specific requirements/definitions as a general will restrict the local authority from dealing with each offence as an individual and therefore prevent effective enforcement for each breach.
- A longer lead can be held at a shorter length to provide closer control when necessary.
- This appears too dictatorial. The lead should be of sufficient length that the owner has full control of the dog to ensure no harm is done to humans or animals
- An owner should be able to use a lead that they feel gives them enough control of their dog if needed.
- Every dog is different and some dogs need longer leads then others. Every dog needs to be able to run and play, defining what type and length may not suit the dog and could hurt there well being. 9/10 it's the owners fault for not picking up poo or for bad behaviour, yet everyone takes it on the dogs.
- Providing a lead can be locked to a suitable length then I consider a running lead adequate.
- I use a lead of varying length. It can be adjusted/fixed from 0.5m to 4m. I am

responsible to adjust it to an appropriate length for the circumstances. It works well. Many responsible dog owners use leads of this type.

- Why are you arbitrarily defining the length of a lead to be 2m why not 3, why not 1... what's the research or science that this is based off of? Seems to me like someone has just set an arbitrary length
- As long as the dog is put onto a lead and it is no longer causing nuisance or danger this should be sufficient in complying with the request.
- Because it is not needed.
- I feel that a lockable retractable should be classed as suitable. My dog is always on a lead as she has issues with concentration (which she had when we rescued her) this is a lockable retractable lead .am I expected to carry a second lead of a fixed length???
- As long as the proposal is practical, i think a normal lead is good enough, are we going to see silly rules on length?
- Different dogs walk better on different leads. I have two dogs which I walk on two different leads, one shorter and one longer
- I use a 10m longline and have adequate control of my dog.
- I believe that when required to be on leads then there should be a maximum length for a leash. All dogs are different and leashes vary in size and strength.
- I think this is too restrictive. Make it a recommendation but accept alternatives.
- Subjective and unenforceable. Nanny state!
- So long as the dog is on a lead and can be controlled then it should not matter the type or length of the lead. The important part is that the dog can be controlled, if it is the case that the lead is too long for the dog to be controlled satisfactorily then yes it can then be an issue but the requirement should be put on control
- The solution depends on the situation or land to which this type of restriction should apply. I can't think of any reason why there would be specific requirements to restrict both the type and length of the lead.

I understand the length aspect though. However, how would this be enforceable and the logistics in terms of both enforcers and owners having to obtain/know what the right lead for the right job as it were?

I would remove this clause for practicality reasons. Or be more specific as to why a lead of X length or type would be preferable.

- Not flexi leads though as they open a whole new can of problems.
- Very difficult to enforce.
- A lot of us have retractable leads as they make life easier when dogs need a bit of extra room but can't be let off the lead. They are retractable so can be made shorter anyway. This would mean we would have to buy new leads.
- This proposal seems unnecessarily restrictive. Sensible use of an extensible lead is perfectly capable of keeping a dog under control, and most owners are unlikely to carry both types of leads.
- This will not be enforced. You or County or the Police will not resource this.
- Dogs should not be off of leads in shopping centres, town centres, or any public places.
One such place is the fountains area in Hemel Town Centre, there are invariably 2 Staffordshire Bull Terriers off leads when children are playing in the area. not good.
- Length of lead is fine, type of lead no. We have a working dog and always use rope leads rather than a lead with a collar.
- I disagree with this because different dogs need different leads, and some dogs respond better on a harness to a collar. What is important is that the lead the dog is on is appropriate for their weight, i.e an Alsatian will need a more robust lead

than a Spaniel etc. I don't think it is realistic or necessary for the local council to define this. Most responsible dog owners who have their dogs on leads are probably also responsible enough to have them on the correct ones. However with one exception; anyone walking a dog on an extending lead should not have the lead extended beyond say 15 metres when walking in a busy public place such as a high street.