Dog Walking

This is quite a big responsibility so only do if you feel really confident about it.

Do NOT walk someone else's dog if you are feeling unwell in any way.

Do NOT walk your dog at the same time as someone else's.

Note: dogs cannot get or directly transmit Coronavirus nor is there any evidence that companion animals can spread it to people BUT there is always possibility that someone asymptomatic with the virus could leave it on the dog e.g. when petting or if droplets from cough or sneeze end up on dog's fur, lead and then another human could theoretically potentially pick it up from that.

Beforehand you will need to check with the dog's human companion re the following:-

- Name of doggie, age, speyed or entire (if female and entire double check if in season or not) any health issues you need to be aware of.
- What time of day doggie needs walking and for how long.
- Decide with owner whether to use one of their leads or your own (SEE BELOW please re safety).
- Usual haunts – best place to walk.
- If raining and particularly muddy would they prefer walk on path around a park or can they cope with mud-soaked hound.
- Keep doggie on the lead!
- Anything they are scared of or particularly reactive to
- Treats ok or no treats? Probably not a good idea to be handling treats at all.

Don't forget POO BAGS and to pick up and put all poop in designated bins.

SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR DOG WALKING

- DO NOT WALK SOMEONE'S DOG IF YOU ARE FEELING UNWELL.
- LEAD: the lead you use should, if possible, not be same as owner's. Any lead – whether your own spare one or owners' needs DISINFECTING before and after use.
- DOG COLLECTION: the issue here is minimising contact between yourself and the owner to avoid possible transmission. If owner has secure front garden, doggie could be let out there once you are in situ (ring owner to say you are there), otherwise if they know you are right outside they could let dog out and you grab lead or they could tie end of lead around front door knob or handle for you to grab that way.
- Wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds just before you go out (then avoid touching face etc with your hands) and again when you get back home. If you are lucky enough to have a mini hand sanitizer and/or a face mask take it with you.
- Minimise your physical contact with doggie. No over-petting, cuddling or kissing doggie.
- When you are out and about keep safe distance away from other dog walkers and their charges – 2 metres minimum.
- On return again you need to effect a safe dog drop off minimising contact – so leave dog in a secure front garden, tie lead to door handle, ring owner to say dog safely returned, stand back and check doggie safely retrieved. Any lead used needs disinfecting – so if owners lead please advise them of that.

How to disinfect a dog lead? Soak in hot water with disinfectant for 30 mins, rinse, hang up to dry.