

RSPCA Response

The RSPCA acknowledges the need for restrictions on off-lead dogs in cemeteries, memorial gardens, and graveyards to respect the comfort of visitors, some of whom may be afraid of dogs. However, we urge local authorities to ensure these restrictions are balanced with the welfare needs of dogs and their owners.

Dogs often provide essential comfort to their owners, especially in sensitive environments like cemeteries. The RSPCA supports allowing dogs on leads in these spaces, as this prevents owners from having to leave their dogs outside, which can cause unnecessary stress and risk, including theft or injury. In some cases, owners may leave a dog in a car, which could result in suffering and potential breaches of the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

While respecting the need for off-lead restrictions, we encourage local authorities to ensure there are other adequate and alternative spaces nearby for dogs to be exercised off-lead. This allows owners to meet their responsibilities under the Animal Welfare Act, ensuring dogs receive the necessary exercise and stimulation.