

Professional Dog Walkers Face Backlash over 'Packs' on Heath

based on an article by London Correspondent **Fiona Hamilton**

(1) Professional dog walkers are to be brought to heel in one of the country's most popular open spaces. The managers of Hampstead Heath in North London are considering restricting the number of dogs that can be exercised on a single occasion at the heath, where up to 20 dogs at a time are sometimes walked together and let off their leashes. Other users of the heath have complained that they are unable to enjoy themselves because they find the packs of dogs intimidating.

(2) The City of London Corporation, which controls 10,000 acres of open space in the capital and its surrounding counties, says dogs are fighting each other and loads of animals are being dropped off for exercise. It is considering a restriction on the activities of professional dog walkers, across all of its open spaces, to alleviate the problem.

(3) Under the proposal there would be a limit – likely to be six – to the number of dogs that commercial operators could walk at any time. All professional walkers would have to gain a licence by undergoing assessment to prove that they could control their dogs. The corporation said that a professional licence, to be considered in the autumn, would restore peace on the heath, where there has been increasing tension



between dog owners and other users. The suggestion has angered professional walkers, who claim that they are being unfairly blamed for trouble caused by individual dogs whose private owners are not properly controlling them.

(4) Simon Lee, the superintendent of Hampstead Heath, told *The Times* that complaints about packs of dogs had been increasing steadily over the past two years. "When people bring in excess of eight or ten dogs – and some people bring significantly higher numbers than that – it is putting some people off enjoying this open space. The dog walkers may have good control but when dogs start acting in a pack manner, their playful behaviour can be intimidating." The number of professional dog walkers has surged in recent years because they offer a convenient service to owners who are unable to exercise their pets regularly. Hampstead Heath, near some wealthy neighbourhoods, is one of the capital's most popular walking spots.

(5) Heather Pope, who has been a professional dog walker on the heath since 2005, said that a licensing system was a 'knee-jerk reaction'. She said that most of the dog walkers on the heath were professionally trained and made sure that the animals in their group were well-suited and under control. "If someone doesn't like dogs they will complain even if you are walking an anorexic Chihuahua. People just won't live and let live." Ms Pope questioned the fairness of an assessment regime and was sceptical that the City of London would be able to police such a system.

(6) The Kennel Club expressed concern that an 'anti-dog' climate was developing around Britain. A spokeswoman said that councils had been given powers to control dogs in 2005 and were becoming increasingly strict. "The problem with restrictions is that every dog is different. To say that walking six Chihuahuas and walking six Dobermans is the same thing is really quite ludicrous. There are factors such as control that the walkers have and their relationship with the dogs, and these are different in every circumstance."

The Times, 2009

Tekst 2

- 1p 2 Which of the following is true according to paragraph 1?
A Local authorities are unable to employ enough professional dog carers.
B Professional dog walkers will no longer be admitted on the heath.
C The times that dogs are allowed on the heath cause frustration.
D Visitors are concerned about the large numbers of dogs on the heath.
- 2p 3 “to alleviate the problem” (alinea 2)
→ Welke twee verschillende oplossingen worden hiervoor in alinea 3 genoemd?
Schrijf deze oplossingen op in de uitwerkbijlage.
- 1p 4 “The suggestion has angered professional walkers” (paragraph 3)
Why is that?
A They feel that a ban on fighting dogs is a much better solution.
B They have already passed tests in order to become proper professionals.
C They think that they are not responsible for causing the problem.
D They will not be able to earn enough with small groups of dogs.
- 1p 5 Which of the following is true according to paragraph 4?
A People who have many dogs to look after find it hard to enjoy their walks.
B Simon Lee thinks the number of professional walkers is now at its peak.
C The rich people of Hampstead Heath will keep more and more dogs.
D There is a clear demand for people who walk dogs for others.
- 2p 6 Geef van elk van de volgende beweringen van Heather Pope aan of deze juist of onjuist is volgens alinea 5.
Omcirkel achter elk nummer ‘juist’ of ‘onjuist’ in de uitwerkbijlage.
Ze denkt dat
- 1 medewerkers van hondenuitlaatdiensten gemakkelijk beoordeeld kunnen worden.
 - 2 de nieuwe maatregelen het einde van de hondenuitlaatdiensten zullen betekenen.
 - 3 de politie strenger toezicht moet houden op de heide.
 - 4 het genoemde systeem oneerlijk en lastig te controleren is.
- 1p 7 What is true according to the Kennel Club in paragraph 6?
A All over Britain, local authorities should apply the same regulations.
B It is impossible to have the same regulations for all dogs.
C Reducing the number of rules could solve the problem with dogs.
D Rules made some years ago cannot apply to today’s situation.

Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.