



## **Mick's Mutts Dog Walking Services Bitches in Heat Policy**

At **Mick's Mutts Dog Walking Services**, the safety and well-being of the dogs in my care is of the utmost importance. I understand that bitches in heat require special attention and handling to ensure both their safety and the safety of other dogs. To provide the best possible care, I have implemented the following policy for walking bitches in heat:

**Individual Walks Only:** Bitches in heat will be walked individually to avoid interactions with other dogs, especially male dogs. This ensures their safety and reduce the risk of unwanted attention.

**Off-Peak Walking Times:** Walks will be scheduled during quieter times of the day to minimize exposure to other dogs and distractions. This helps reduce stress for the dog and keeps the walk calm.

**Secure Locations:** Walks will take place in secure areas away from high-traffic dog walking zones, ensuring the bitch is not approached by off-lead dogs or distracted by other animals.

**Extra Supervision:** I will keep the dog on a short lead at all times to maintain full control and avoid any unwanted incidents. Extra vigilance will be taken when walking near other dogs.

**Owner Notification:** I will always communicate with the owner prior to walking a bitch in heat to discuss any special needs or requests and confirm the safety measures to be taken.

**Cancellations:** If an owner prefers, walks for bitches in heat can be postponed or cancelled during this time, and no cancellation fee will be applied. By adhering to this policy, I aim to ensure a safe, stress-free experience for bitches in heat and provide peace of mind to their owners. Please reach out to me if you have any further questions regarding this policy.

**Alternative Care - Garden Visits:** Instead of walks, I can offer garden visits during this period if preferred. I will visit your home to let your dog out into your secure garden, provide playtime, and make sure they get the necessary exercise and attention in a safe environment. This ensures they stay active without the risks of being in public spaces.

**Why I Do This:** Walking a bitch in heat can be highly stressful not only for the dog herself but also for male dogs who may become aggressive or overly excited in her presence. It also presents risks such as unwanted breeding or confrontations with other dogs. By opting for garden visits instead, this will minimise stress and ensure that your dog receives appropriate care without compromising her safety or the safety of others.



I appreciate your understanding and cooperation in following this policy. If you have any questions or would like to arrange garden visits for your dog during her heat cycle, please don't hesitate to contact me.