



Dear dog owners,

with this letter we would like to take the opportunity to inform you as dog owners.

Dog tax in general:

The dog tax is one of the local expense taxes that accrue to the municipalities. It is also used to pursue regulatory goals. The dog tax is - historically grown - among other things to help control the number of dogs in the urban area. It does not serve to finance the costs arising from dog ownership, e.g. for waste disposal.

Dogs in Field, Forest & Floodplain:

For a walk with the dog in the open countryside on paved or unpaved paths, the following applies: **Please stay with your dog on officially designated paths - the use of "unofficially" broken-in trails, such as those that have emerged in floodplain area along the banks of the Nidder, is not permitted!** Also (scattered fruit) meadows and agricultural areas are **no** dog playgrounds. Food and fodder are produced here and during the breeding and seeding season these areas serve as retreats for wild animals. This is especially true of the forest and sensitive riparian areas along the Nidder River. These areas should generally be avoided and dogs should be kept on a leash.

Where can the dogs romp together in a species-appropriate way?

Walking together is a nice thing, but the dogs should run and romp together on the trails. The prerequisite for this is that the dogs must be retrievable at all times. Remember that there are frightened and older dogs who react protectively/defensively to free-roaming conspecifics approaching them unintentionally. Likewise, there are fellow humans who are afraid of dogs. Is your dog not recallable? Please keep him on a leash. Is your dog recallable? Please be considerate of other dog owners and people around you.

Outlook

The city of Nidderau is currently examining suitable areas that can be used as dog runs in order to create additional opportunities for dogs to exercise. However, there will also be rules for these meadows, which must be observed by all users. Currently there are privately or through clubs usable dog meadows in Ostheim (Sonnenhof and Hundesportverein).

Time of walking:

Please stay within walking distance of development and on paved trails during late evening and/or early morning walks. Our wildlife otherwise has no chance to rest in the woods or open countryside and is under constant stress because they must always be on guard. Wild animals also have a right to rest, especially in the forest and in the protected landscape areas along the Nidder! **(triangular signs with green border).**

Dog excrement

For most dog owners it is a matter of course to remove the droppings of their four-legged friends from paths and meadows and to dispose of them in bags via the public waste containers or their own residual waste garbage can. The approximately 60 dog bag stations are refilled several times a week with new plastic bags by the building yard team. The waste statutes prescribe the use of the public waste garbage cans or the domestic waste garbage cans for waste that accumulates on public roads, paths and squares - such as dog excrement. Full plastic bags may not be carelessly disposed of in nature. The violation is a misdemeanor, which can be punished with a fine. The dog owners have to bear the costs for the disposal of their dog's waste themselves.

With kind regards,

Environment, Waste, Forestry and Public Order Services