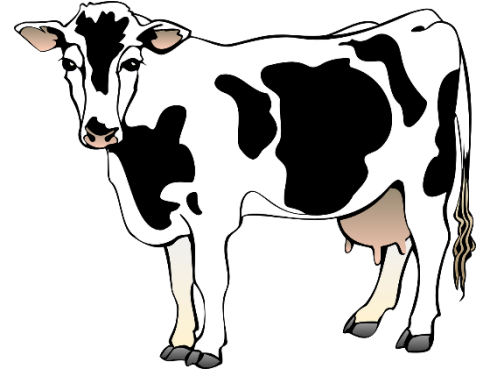


What?

- **Walking in the countryside is a relatively safe and pleasurable experience and in the UK we have very few wild animals to fear.**
- **Domesticated animals such as cattle, horses and dogs, however, have the potential to cause us harm if we do not take some sensible precautions, though the risk is very small.**



Why?

- Cow related deaths are not common, only 17 occurred between 2001-2011 (*Health & Safety Executive*). Such incidents usually involve dogs, as cows see dogs as a bigger threat to them and their calves than humans. You should keep dogs on a lead, but let them off if cows start charging.
- When walking in places where horses are grazing, it's best to exercise the same caution as when walking near livestock - keeping dogs, which could frighten horses, on a lead and avoiding walking between mares and their foals. On bridleways and rural roads, horse riders don't have priority over pedestrians, but it is best to use your common sense and be mindful of other path users.
- Many dogs will be friendly towards unfamiliar people they meet and won't show any signs of aggression when approached, but some may behave aggressively if approached too closely.

Do ✓

- ✓ Be mindful of any members who may be scared of dogs or other animals and give them support
- ✓ Stay well clear of calves or foals and don't pet them!
- ✓ Move in a careful, calm way. If you sense a threat from a cow, keep moving with your body facing the cow; don't turn your back to the animal or run
- ✓ Give horses a wide berth when overtaking on foot or bike
- ✓ Let the horse rider know you are there if you are approaching from behind
- ✓ If you come across an aggressive dog stay calm, talk in a pleasant tone of voice and get something as solid as possible between you and the dog
- ✓ Tell the landowner and highway authority about any attacks or incidents; call the police if it's serious

Don't ✗

- ✗ Don't encourage members to stroke or pet unfamiliar dogs or other animals
- ✗ Don't shout or make sudden, startling movements near horses or cattle
- ✗ Don't put yourself and your group at risk; if there are cattle blocking the path through the field where you want to go, find another way round
- ✗ Don't walk too closely behind a horse and its rider, a horse on a leading rein or any unfamiliar animal; give them a wide berth
- ✗ Don't be afraid to ask dog owners to put their dog on a lead if they are frightening group members
- ✗ Don't make sudden movements or run when faced with an aggressive dog - just walk slowly away
- ✗ Don't stare into a dog's face or shout at them



Document Name	<i>TBT Cattle, Horses & Dogs</i>	Document No.	<i>OC/HS/TBT 53</i>
Document Owner	<i>David Shaftoe</i>	Date of Issue	<i>02.07.20</i>
Related TBTs	<i>Adders; Poisonous Plants; Walking</i>	Version No.	<i>1</i>