



Canton of Zurich  
Department of Health  
Veterinary Office

# Code of conduct

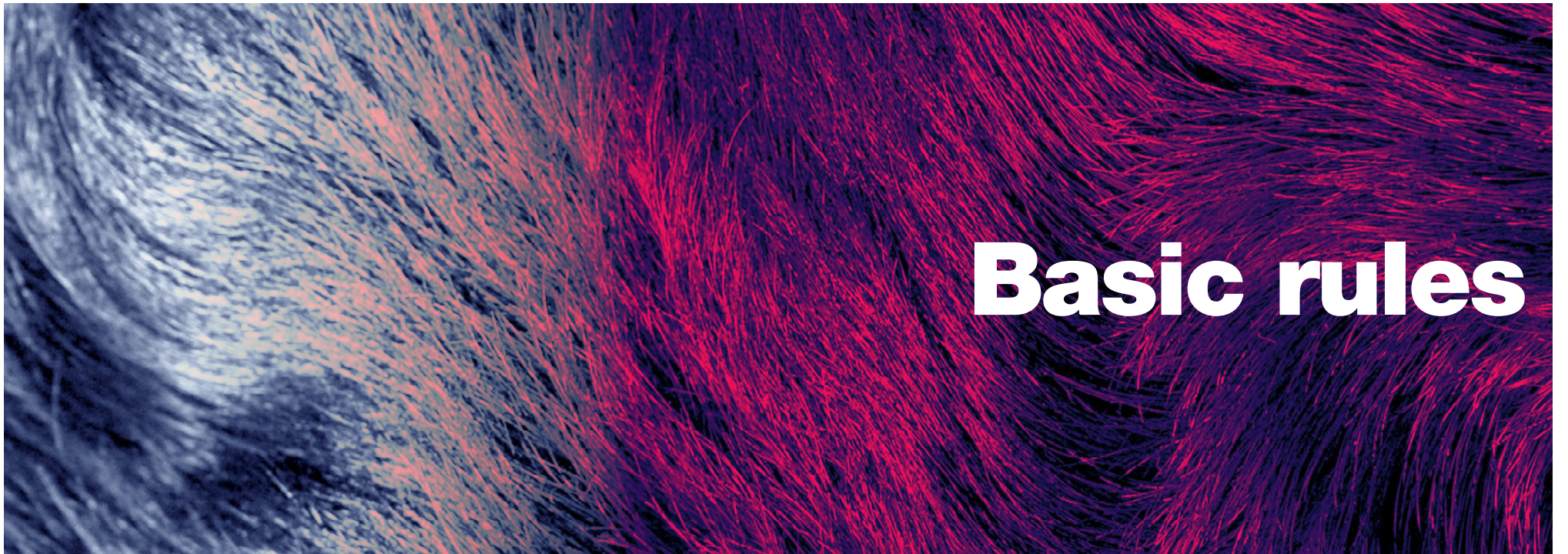
for dog owners and non-dog-owners



The instructions and rules of conduct which are set out in the Zurich "Dogs Code" aim to facilitate conflict-free and uncomplicated coexistence between dogs, their owners and the people whom they encounter in everyday life. The rules refer to situations in which such encounters take place and in which, above all, mutual understanding, respect and a readiness to communicate are essential. Non-dog-owners who know how to behave around dogs, as well as dog owners who fulfil their responsibility and their duty of care, help to prevent conflicts and accidents, thus helping to rule out the need for further regulations on coexistence between people and dogs.

Accordingly, the tips and information in the "Dogs Code" are directed not only at dog owners, but at non-dog-owners as well. With appropriate behaviour and a little courtesy, we all make it possible for people and dogs to live with and alongside each other in a relaxed way, in publicly accessible places. Last but not least, we also make it easier for dogs to move around in the community in an adapted manner which is appropriate for their species.

Veterinary Office of the Canton of Zurich



**Basic rules**

When the call-off command is unreliable  
upon hunting behaviour  
upon unwanted guarding behaviour  
upon excessive protective instincts  
upon contagious illness  
when in heat  
in conservation areas  
in wildlife refuges

**the dog is strictly kept  
on a leash.**

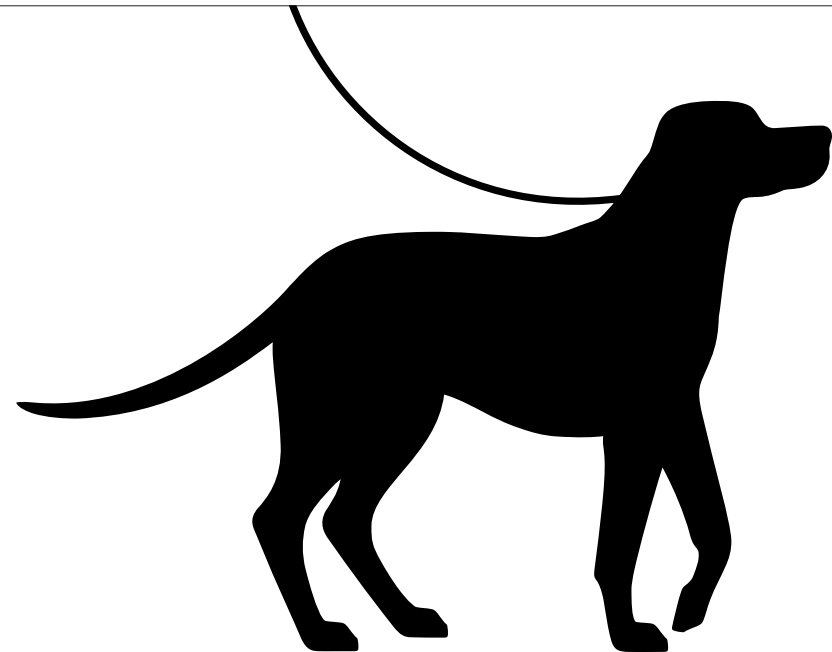
On open terrain, it can be kept on a long leash.



**a**

On public transport  
at train stations  
at bus or tram stops  
on busy streets  
when someone requests it  
in restaurants and other public buildings  
upon encounters with other dogs on leashes

**the dog is kept on a  
short leash.**

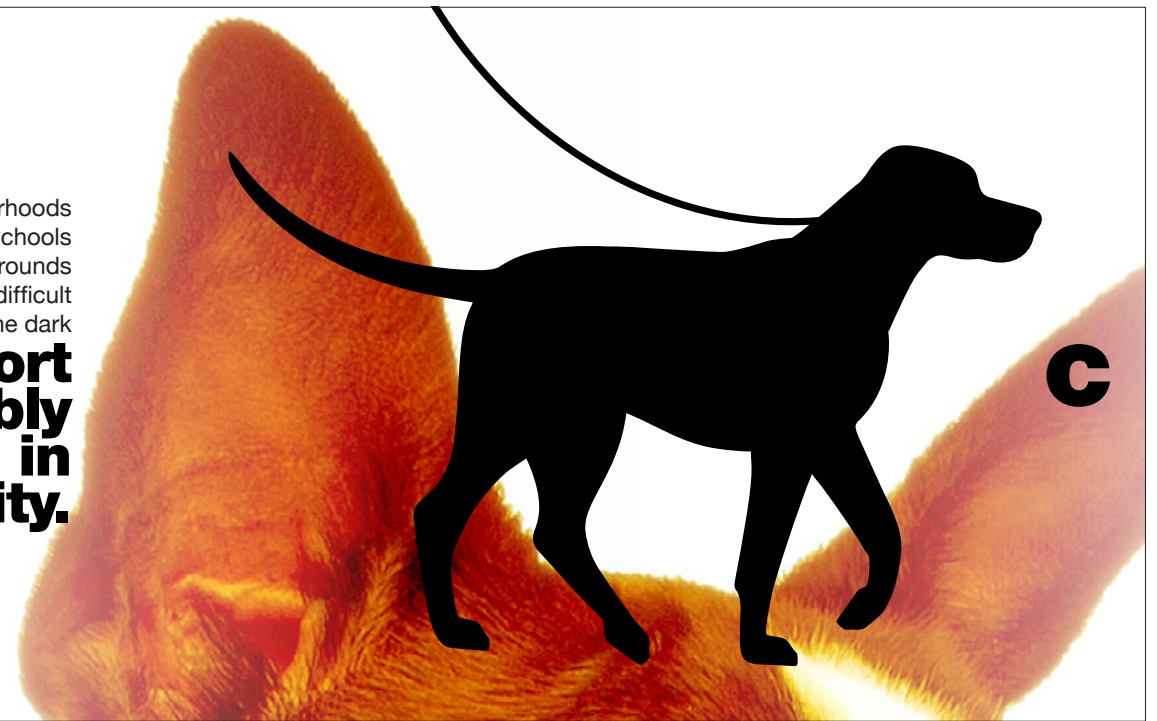


**b**



In residential neighbourhoods  
near kindergartens and schools  
near playgrounds and sports grounds  
in areas where supervision is difficult  
in the dark

**the dog is kept on a short  
leash or, if reliably  
obedient, led under control in  
the immediate vicinity.**



**C**

At cemeteries  
at swimming pools  
in schoolyards  
on playing fields and sports fields  
at large events such as concerts,  
village festivals, sports events or annual fairs

**the dog is not brought  
along.**



**d**

A close-up photograph of a dog's fur, likely a long-haired breed, with a mix of dark blue and red lighting. The fur is dense and textured, with individual strands clearly visible. The lighting creates a dramatic, almost ethereal effect, highlighting the texture and color variations of the hair.

# **Code of conduct for dog owners**



**Anyone walking a dog can control and forcefully restrain it in any situation.**



**01**

**Upon encounters with passers-by or other dog owners with their dogs, the dog is always kept on the far side and on a short leash.**

If reliably obedient, it can be kept at heel.



**02**

**If conflicts arise,  
they are dealt with politely.**

If requested, personal details are provided (name, address  
and telephone number).

**03**



**The dog does not pee in  
inappropriate places. Its faeces  
are correctly disposed of  
in every situation, leaving as  
little trace as possible.**

**04**

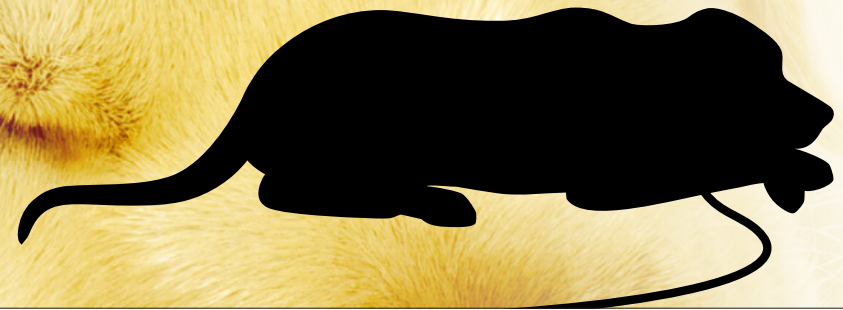




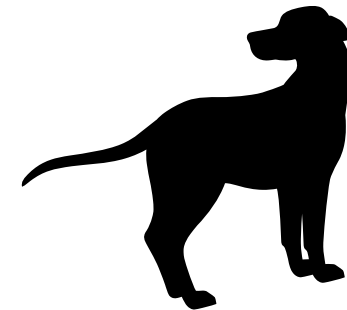
**In restaurants, the dog is kept on a leash and positioned where it is not in the way of guests or staff and where nobody can step on it.**

Care is also taken to ensure that nobody is disturbed by the dog's odour or barking.

**05**



**When off the leash, the dog is always in sight and within call.**



**06**

**During the growing season,  
the dog strictly does not linger  
in tall grass or on farmland.**

Objects which are played with shall never be left lying in the field.



**07**

**When several dogs are walked  
together, it is ensured that they  
can be controlled in a pack.**

All dogs are strictly kept on a leash.



**08**



**If children are present,  
an eye is kept on the children  
and on the dog at all times.**

The dog is under control in every situation.



**09**

**Any dogs taken out  
by children or youths can be  
restrained and controlled  
at any time.**

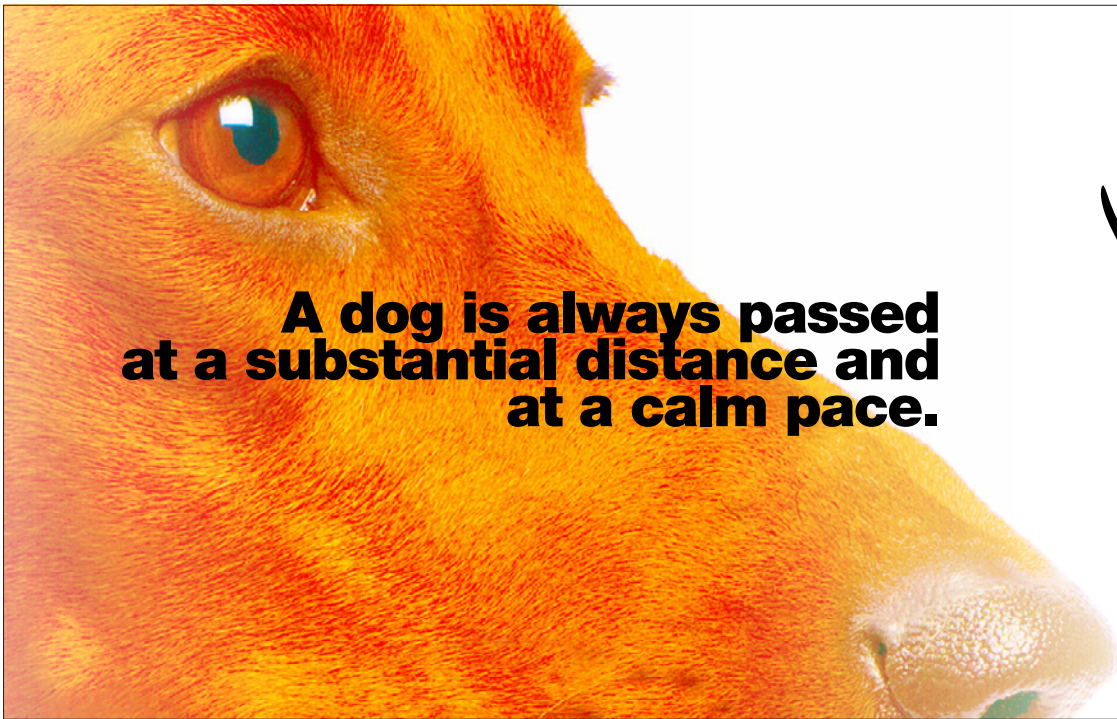


**10**

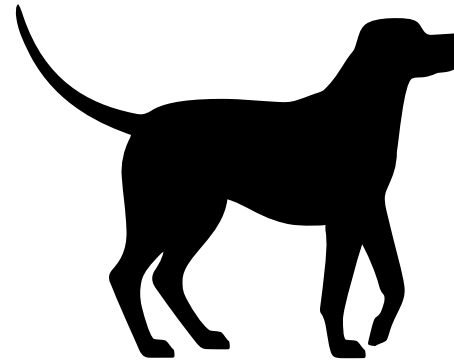


A close-up photograph of a dog's fur, likely a long-haired breed, with a mix of dark blue and vibrant red lighting. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# **Code of conduct for non-dog-owners**



**A dog is always passed  
at a substantial distance and  
at a calm pace.**



**01**



**Looking a dog in the eyes is  
taboo, whereas observing  
it from the corner of the eye  
is a must.**

If the presence of a certain person causes a dog to exhibit fear, excitement or aggression (growling, barking or baring of teeth), it is important to ignore the dog and to increase one's distance from it slowly.

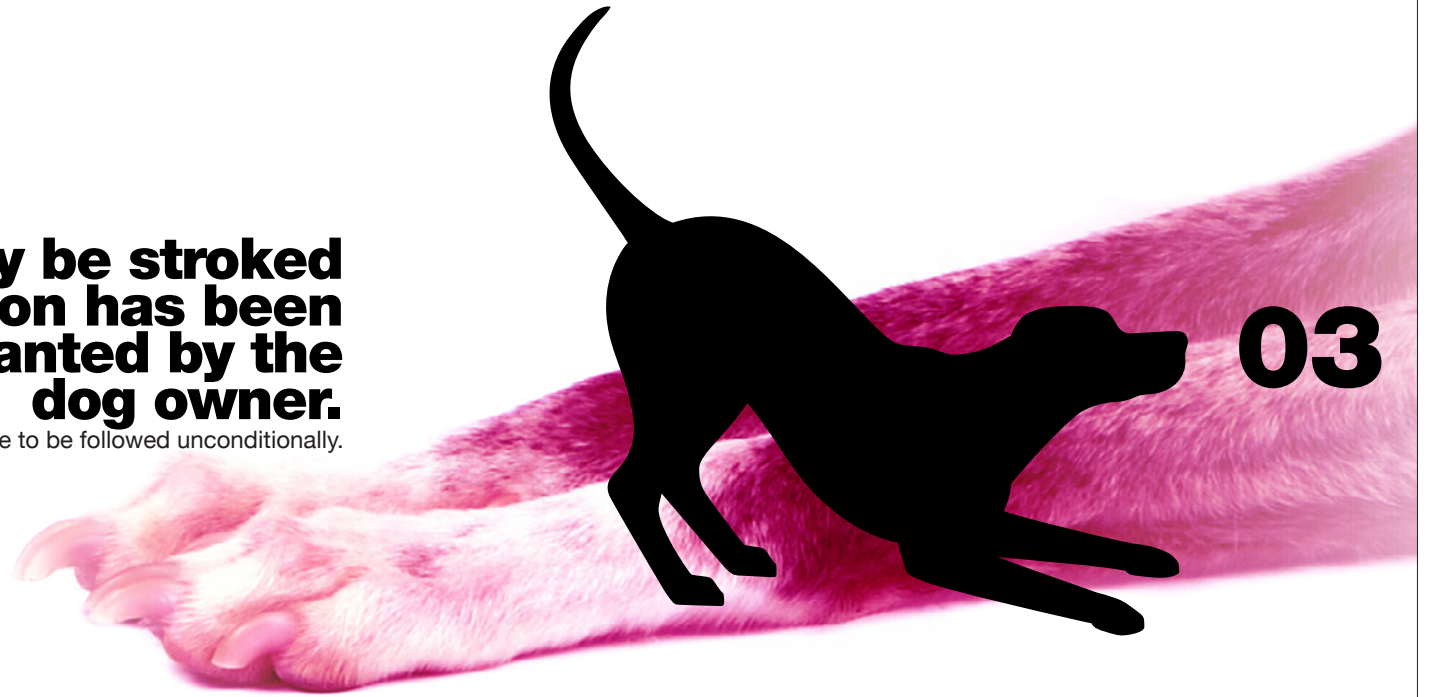


**02**



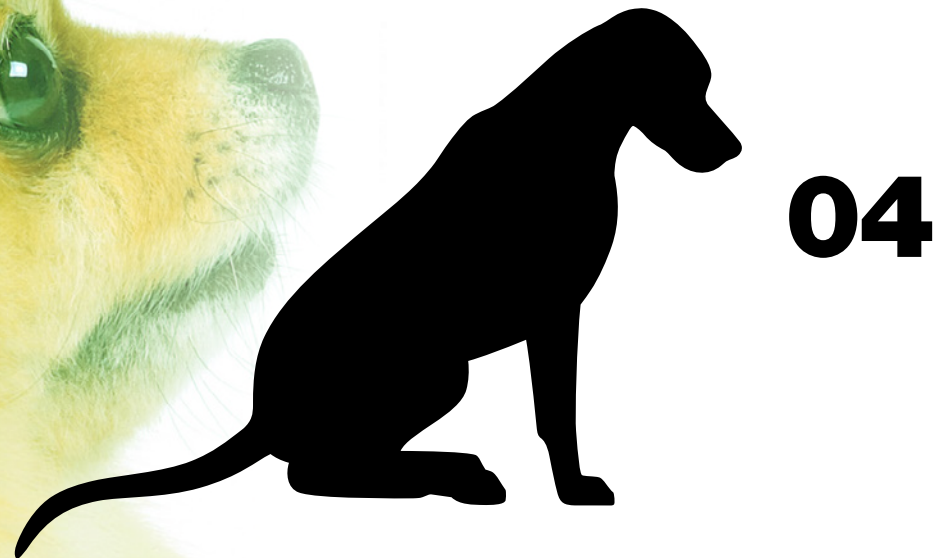
**Dogs may only be stroked  
or fed if permission has been  
explicitly granted by the  
dog owner.**

Any instructions given in this regard are to be followed unconditionally.



**If conflicts arise,  
they are dealt with politely.**

If requested, personal details are provided (name, address  
and telephone number).





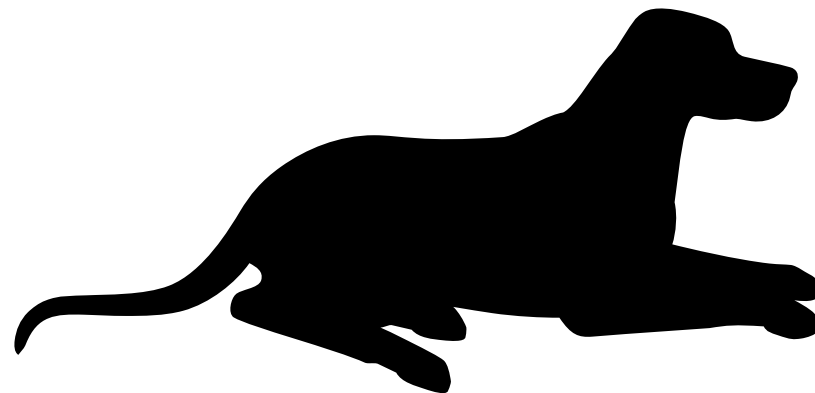
**Joggers, cyclists, skaters,  
etc. who approach a dog  
from behind must make their  
presence known in  
good time, so that the dog  
owner has enough time  
to control his dog.**

The dog is then passed at a substantial distance and at walking pace.



**05**

**If children and dogs  
are present at the same place,  
they remain under constant  
supervision.**



**06**

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