



## Garden of Remembrance Pet Area

These rules should act as a supplement to main regulations, and the main regulations always take precedence over these where they are an unintended conflict.

### Pet Scattering Area Information and Regulations (2026)

The Pet Scattering Area forms part of the Garden of Remembrance on Burnham Road. Please refer to our main regulations for other details. It has been created to provide a dignified, natural setting for the scattering of pet ashes and for quiet reflection by their owners. These regulations ensure the area remains respectful, safe, and environmentally appropriate for all visitors. These rules apply in addition to the Garden of Remembrance Regulations. Where there is any conflict, the stricter rule applies.

#### 1. Purpose of the Pet Scattering Area

The Pet Scattering Area is provided solely for:

The scattering of cremated pet remains with the consent of the Town Council

Quiet remembrance by owners and families, and for the placement of pet memorials.

Respectful access by visitors accompanying dogs under strict control

No other use is permitted.

#### 2. Access and Eligibility

The area is open to visitors during the Garden's published opening hours, however we reserve the right to lock the gate at any time, should the need arise.

Scattering of pet ashes must be arranged in advance with the Town Council.

No scattering may take place without the knowledge and consent of the Town Clerk or their representative.

Only cremated pet remains up to 10kg in weight may be scattered

It is illegal to deposit ashes without permission; unauthorised ashes will be removed and disposed of, and are treated as trespass.

#### 3. Dogs – Access and Control Requirements

We have recently relaxed the regulations so that dogs are permitted in the Garden **only** for the purpose of visiting the Pet Scattering Area. To protect the dignity of the Garden and the safety of all visitors, the following rules apply:

##### Pathway Restriction

Dogs must remain **strictly on the designated pathways** leading to and within the Pet Scattering Area. Dogs must not enter grassed areas, planting beds, memorial zones, or any part of the human committal sections of the Garden.

##### Prohibited Areas

Dogs are **not permitted** in or near any human committal area, memorial wall, paved ceremonial area, or interment site. Dogs must not approach or enter any area where a human committal or memorial activity is taking place.

##### Behaviour Around Other Visitors

Dogs must not approach other visitors at any time or cause distress.

Owners must maintain full control to prevent contact, disturbance, or nuisance.

##### Lead Requirements

Dogs must be kept on a short, fixed lead at all times. Extending or retractable leads are not permitted anywhere in the Garden unless locked short.

##### Owner Responsibilities

Owners must carry means to clear up after their dog and must remove waste immediately as dogs must not be allowed to foul any part of the Garden. We do not have a 'toilet' area for animals.

Dogs may not run free in the car park or any other area, or be used as a rest break.

### **Conditional Permission**

Permission for dogs to enter the Garden has been granted solely due to the introduction of the Pet Scattering Area. This permission may be withdrawn at any time if misused.

## **4. Scattering of Pet Ashes**

Scattering must be carried out at the location specified by the Town Council, which will always be marked with a marker in a raked/clear area.

Only loose cremated remains may be scattered; no containers, urns, or receptacles may be buried or left in the area.

The scattering must be conducted in a quiet, respectful manner.

Filming or recording is permitted only for personal use and must not disturb other visitors and if council staff are present, you must make them aware of this.

## **5. Memorials and Tributes**

No permanent memorials, plaques, markers, or objects of any kind may be installed in the Pet Scattering Area other than those approved/purchased via by the Town Council. No secondary memorial is permitted.

Artificial flowers, ornaments, toys, ribbons, candles, lights, or any other items are not permitted and will be removed.

Small natural floral tributes may be placed temporarily at the scattering point but will be cleared away from time to time.

No planting of bulbs, seeds, shrubs, or trees is permitted.

## **6. Conduct and Behaviour**

Visitors must behave in a manner appropriate to a place of remembrance. The following are not permitted:

Creating noise, disturbance, or nuisance, illegal activities such as use of drugs.

Excessive barking of a dog

Playing music, radios, or amplified sound

Littering or leaving any materials in the area

Interfering with plants, trees, wildlife, or any part of the Garden

Interfering with any committal or legitimate activity carried out by or with the permission of the Town Council

## **7. Applications and Records**

Applications for scattering and/or memorials must be made on the appropriate form and accompanied by the required fee.

All correspondence will be with the applicant named on the form.

The Town Clerk or delegated officers maintains the Register of Pet Scatterings (electronically held), which may be inspected during office hours.

## **8. Enforcement and Removal of Unauthorised Items**

Any unauthorised items left in the Pet Scattering Area will be removed before disposal. We may hold them in store for 30 days, but cannot guarantee this will happen due to the busy operation of the gardens.

Illegal scatterings will be considered as trespass, and we will use civil costs recovery to enforce such a breach. We are required by law to record animal type and weight of ashes, which we cannot do if there are illegal scatterings, and must remove them from the gardens.

The Council reserves the right to recover costs arising from the removal of prohibited items or rectification of damage.

Visitors who breach these regulations may be asked to leave the Garden and may be refused future access. We reserve the right to withdraw access for animals if we receive too many complaints.