

Bringing Your Dog to Every Step Counts? Here's What to Know



We look forward to welcoming you and your SuperPooch to the Every Step Counts Autism Walk & 5K Run on October 4th. The day promises to be super fun for everyone in the autism community.

We anticipate a record turnout, with potentially more than 1,000 people in attendance. Because of the invitation to participate in the SuperPooch Parade, we expect many more dogs to join us this year. This could create feelings of unease in both 4-legged and 2-legged participants. *You know your dog best. If your dog is unlikely to be on his or her best behavior in large crowds, noisy environments or around other dogs, we ask that you reconsider bringing him or her along.*

We are mindful that not everyone is comfortable around dogs, particularly members of the autism community. We're putting the following guidelines in place to help ensure that everyone has a positive experience without feeling anxious or scared.

Here's what to know before you grab your leash and head out the door.



Dogs must be on a leash and under the control of their companions at all times. We ask that you keep the leash length to about 6 feet or so.



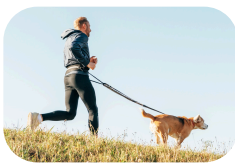
The **SuperPooch Tent** will be located near the Event Village so that dogs can adjust to the scene upon arriving. We invite everyone to stop in to collect a bandana and treat. Water will be available throughout the event.



The **Children's Play Area will be a Dog-Free Zone** for the safety and comfort of our youngest participants. This includes the bounce houses, face painter, sensory tent, entertainer's tent, Rosie the mini horse and lawn game area. Please keep this in mind if you need to supervise your child(ren) during play. Volunteers will not provide supervision.



We are providing a **Quiet Zone** at the Entertainers tent in the Children's Play Area for individuals of any age who need a place to escape the crowds and noise.



If you are running the **5K Run** with your dog at 10:00AM, we ask that you line up behind the field of runners at the start line.



If participating in the **SuperPooch Parade**, dogs and their companions will be asked to gather near the SuperPooch Tent. The parade will lead off the 4K Walk at 10:05AM.



If you don't plan to complete the 4K Walk or 1K Stroll with your dog, volunteers will direct you off the walk/stroll route back to the event village so that you can cheer on the finishers.



This is a **"leave no trace"** event. Please, please, please pick up after your dog. Bags will be available at the SuperPooch Tent. Grab one or two before hitting the trail!

QUESTIONS? Contact the Autism Society of Maryland (AUSOM)

410-290-3466x7678 or susanne.mason@autismsocietymd.org

Visit the Every Step Counts website: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MD/EllicottCity/EveryStepCountsAutismWalk5K>