



SHEPPEY NATURAL BURIAL GROUND LTD

Rules and regulations of the Pet Natural Burial Ground

The Pet Natural Burial Ground (PNBG) is managed and maintained by **Sheppey Natural Burial Ground Limited (SNBGL)**. These regulations have been put in place to shape and preserve the natural environment in the area for the benefit of the local population and future generations of visitors. They are essential to combining a proper respect for the dead with a suitable management and planting regime, which will provide a burial ground that is peaceful, pleasant, ecologically rich and, above all, becomes a fitting natural memorial to those who are buried there.

The Directors of SNBGL respectfully ask visitors to treat the burial grounds with care and respect and to obey these rules and regulations.

These rules and regulations cover the following areas of the operation of PNBG:-

General care and behaviour

- 1) The burial grounds are open at such hours and days as SNBGL will from time to time decide.
- 2) Children under 18 years of age are not admitted unless accompanied by an adult.
- 3) All visitors to the grounds must comply with the cemetery regulations, and the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977, Article 10, Paragraph 6, article and Section 1 of the Criminal Damages Act 1971 (copies of which can be provided on request).
- 4) Visitors must not disturb the wildlife or remove any flora, fauna or other materials from the burial grounds.
- 5) To preserve the peace and tranquillity of the burial grounds, mobile phones and other portable devices must be switched off within its boundaries.
- 6) No pets, other than guide dogs for blind visitors are allowed in any part of the burial grounds except by prior arrangement with SNBGL. No grazing animals are allowed in the burial grounds, unless introduced by SNBGL for conservation purposes.
- 7) All visitors must keep to the paths to avoid trampling and damaging the natural and emerging ground cover.
- 8) No ball games allowed.
- 9) To protect generation of a natural landscape, the picking of flowers and shrubs, or the planting flowers and shrubs, is prohibited.
- 10) No form of hunting is allowed.
- 11) Visitors should not drop litter. No litter bins are provided as it is expected that visitors will take their litter home with them.
- 12) The placing on burial plots of suitable monuments is allowed with prior permission of the SNBGL management.
- 13) No plants or seeds are to be planted on any plot, without prior permission from SNBGL, nor is the cutting of grass on or around the plots allowed.
- 14) SNBGL reserves the right to remove any object found in the burial grounds, which has not been approved by SNBGL. Removal will take place without prior notification to the purchaser of the burial plot.

Booking of funerals and allocation of graves

- 15) Burial plots are allocated and their location marked on a master plan and in a record book.
- 16) Purchasers may select a burial plot, or plots, provided it is within the area designated for burials, as designated by SNBGL from time to time.
- 17) The purchase of a burial plot is the purchase of the right of burial in PNBG only and does not confer on the purchaser ownership of the ground or any other rights. **No refunds are given, other than the statutory requirement.**
- 18) Only one interment is permitted in each burial plot, but several plots may be purchased, and, where space allows, these plots will be allocated near or next to each other. For cremated remains, burial plots may be purchased for six, four or two interments.
- 19) All grants of burial rights granted by SNBGL are for a period of 50 years and are subject to these rules and regulations, which may be amended from time to time without reference to purchasers. It must be understood that using a reserved burial plot adjacent to a plot in which a burial has already taken place may result in damage. No bricked burial plots or vaults are allowed.



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- 20) All excavations of burial plots, and all other ground works, shall be carried out either by an employee of SNBGL or by a person approved by them. For families wishing to help with the excavation or filling in of burial plots, special arrangements can be made with SNBGL.
- 21) Floral tributes of any type may be placed on burial plots at the time of the funeral, but they must be removed within 7 days. This is to allow the natural ground cover to develop. Floral tributes left on the burial plot must not be wrapped in cellophane or tied with florist ribbons, because these are not bio-degradable.
- 22) Memorial trees may be purchased from SNBGL and will be planted at the appropriate time of the year. **No refunds are given, other than the statutory requirement.**

Procedure for arranging the interment of pets in PNBG

- 23) Notices of interment must be submitted in writing to SNBGL's registered office address.
- 24) The SNBGL registered office is open from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm Monday to Friday.
- 25) Interments must take place on a date and time agreed with SNBGL.
- 26) The minimum length of notice to be given where a burial plot is to be excavated is 2 working days.
- 27) The SNBGL office shall calculate the period of notice from its receipt of an interment notification containing the following information:-
 - a) Description of pet.
 - b) Size and weight of pet.
 - c) The date and time of the interment (the time the pet's remains will arrive at the burial ground).
 - d) Any arrangements made with respect to an "officiant".
 - e) The signed burial application form agreeing to the rules and regulations concerning the erection of memorials and the planting of trees and plants.
- 28) No pet's remains or ashes shall be removed from any burial plot once interred.
- 29) SNBGL encourages the use of bio-degradable materials, instance cardboard or wicker caskets; or shrouds made from natural materials. Caskets made from solid hardwood, MDF, or chipboard are **NOT ALLOWED**.
- 30) No camping or overnight stays are allowed anywhere on the burial grounds, car park or roads leading to it.
- 31) In case of emergencies please contact the PNBGL office on **01795 880441**.
- 32) All correspondence should be sent to **New Hook Farm, Lower Road, Eastchurch, Sheerness, Kent ME12 3SU**.