# Decarbonising with Dogs

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| One method to reduce carbon emissions through transport is to encourage a modal shift for short trips from using vehicles to travelling via active modes. To achieve a modal shift for short trips, this requires an integrated approach to land use planning. When housing, social amenities, transport hubs and employment are within proximity to one another, this provides an opportunity for trips to be shorter, and therefore undertaken potentially using active modes. Transport professionals can facilitate this type of urban planning through providing appropriate cross-section forms for these facilities, as well as strategically placing transport hubs in high density regions.  Whilst short trips can be facilitated through this approach of integrated land use and transport planning, another barrier for short trips via active modes is creating a behavioural change. Many will still choose their vehicles instead of active modes for a number of factors, including time convenience, weather impacts, or just being unable to break a habit.  This think-piece paper will assess how dogs can help create a long-term behavioural change, by naturally encouraging people to do short trips via active modes every day. Studies have shown dog owners are not only more active in the long-term as a result of conducting daily walks with their pets, but are also more likely to stick to other physical activity routines. Dog walking demystifies the barriers such as walking in less favourable weather and creates a habit that can make pet owners more likely to walk or cycle short distances. This paper will therefore explore how dogs create this long-term behavioural change which can help decarbonise short trips, and further discuss other potential ways to encourage this short trip modal shift. |