



Animals on Campus Policy

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This policy has been developed to provide guidance to staff, students and visitors about permitting animals access to University premises, including all buildings and accommodation areas. The University distinguishes between guidance and assistance dogs, therapy dogs and dogs as pets or companions. All guidance and assistance dogs required by anyone classified as having a disability under the Equality Act 2010 are allowed on University premises without restriction.

Key Definitions

1. Assistance Animal

Guidance or Assistance dogs are trained to perform specific tasks to help a disabled person. They are usually qualified by a charitable organisation, registered as members of Assistance Dogs UK and undergo a specific and thorough training programme.

Assistance Dogs UK (ADUK) are a voluntary coalition of the following accredited assistance dog charities:

- Canine Partners
- Assistance in Disability Dog AID
- Guide Dogs
- Dogs for Good
- Hearing Dogs for Deaf People
- Medical Detection Dogs
- Support Dogs
- The Seeing Dogs Alliance

Under the Equalities Act, appropriately verified assistance dogs are “legally permitted to accompany its client, owner, or partner, at all times and in all places, within the United Kingdom”.

2. Therapy and Emotional Support Animals

Emotional support animals provide comfort and companionship, in some circumstances they can help alleviate identified symptoms or effects of a disability.

The UK does not recognise emotional support animals so they do not have the same rights of access. ADUK do not register or validate emotional support animals. The University does not allow therapy or emotional support animals for individuals on campus or in Halls of Residence

Therapy animals do not aid with mobility or practical tasks but may provide therapeutic benefits as part of a structured activity, that may be planned as part of therapeutic programme or practice on campus.

3. Pets

A pet is a domesticated animal that provides companionship but is not considered an assistance or therapy animal. The University does not allow staff or students to bring pets onto campus or into Halls of Residence.

Approval Process for Allowing Animals on Campus

Assistance Animals

Permission is not required to allow Guidance or Assistance dogs on campus. Staff and students using an assistance dog should ensure:

- The animal is registered with ADUK
- Appropriate public liability insurance is in place
- They have notified the [Accommodation Office](#) if living in Halls of Residence or other University accommodation.

Animals involved in University Events or Activities

Requests to allow animals on campus in relation to an event or research activity should be sent to the relevant Head of School or Head of Department accompanied by a relevant risk assessment.

The decision whether to allow access should be based on risk, to ensure that an animal does not become a threat, health hazard, nuisance, or distraction to University staff, students and visitors. The safety and wellbeing of the animal should also be considered. A list of relevant hazards to include within the risk assessment are set out below.

Typical hazards associated with animals on campus;

- Delayed or stalled evacuation in an emergency
- Aggressive animal behavior
- Allergic reactions
- Transmission of disease
- Zoophobia – phobia of animals that causes distress or dysfunction in an individual's everyday life
- Slips, trips and falls
- Animal waste
- Damage to University property

Staff organizing activities or events involving animals should consider these risks in context and plan suitable ways of controlling them. The University's Health and Safety Advisor can provide specific advice upon request.

The University reserves the right to exclude an animal from a facility or, in extreme circumstances, from the campus, if the animal poses a threat to the health and safety of others.