



University of
St Andrews

Pets in accommodation

Document type	Policy
Scope (applies to)	All students
Applicability date	29/06/2022
Review / Expiry date	30/06/2023
Approved date	14/06/2022
Approver	Deputy Director
Document owner	Operations Manager
School / unit	Residential and Business Services
Document status	Published
Information classification	Public
Equality impact assessment	None
Key terms	Estate/Facilities management/Operations
Purpose	To set out the policy on pets in accommodation and the requirements on assistance dogs

The University of St Andrews has a strict no pets policy. The only exception to this rule is if the animal is an Assistance Dog and meets the criteria as mentioned below.

Definition of Assistance Dog

Assistance dogs are trained to help people with sight, hearing difficulties, epilepsy, diabetes, physical mobility problems and more. Assistance dogs carry out a variety of practical tasks for people as well as supporting their independence and confidence.

Assistance dogs are not pets and are treated as 'auxiliary aids' under the Equality Act (2010), as they are highly trained which means they:

- will not wander freely around the premises
- will sit or lie quietly on the floor next to their owner
- are unlikely to foul in a public place

Although not a legal requirement, most assistance dogs are instantly recognisable by the harness or identifying coat they wear. Some, but not all assistance dog users, will carry an ID book giving information about the assistance dog and training organisation together with other useful information.

Types of Assistance Dogs:

Guide Dogs assist people who are blind or are visually impaired.

Hearing Dogs assist people who are deaf or are hearing impaired.

Support Dogs/Dogs for the Disabled: A Support Dog can be trained to do many other tasks, which their owner may find difficult or impossible; for example:

- Opening and closing doors
- Calling an ambulance
- Picking up objects
- Assisting with dressing and undressing.
- Accompanying their owner whilst shopping etc.
- Acting as a physical support
- Raising the alarm
- Operating control buttons
- Switching lights on and off
- Carrying items
- Loading and unloading the washing machine
- Fetching the telephone and other items

Support Dogs also train dogs for people with disabilities and Seizure Alert dogs for people with epilepsy. Seizure Alert Dogs are trained to behave differently when they detect a potential seizure, which may appear to be misbehaving.

Members of Assistance Dogs (UK)

The following are registered members of Assistance Dogs (UK):

- Guide Dogs for the Blind Association (GDBA)
- Hearing Dogs for Deaf People
- Support Dogs

- Dogs for the Disabled
- Canine Partners

Responsibility of Dog Owners

1. The Dog should be kept on its lead at all times while on University property.
2. No fouling of University grounds or residences. If the dog does foul the mess must be cleaned up immediately.
3. The dog should be exercised off University property
4. The Dog should not cause a nuisance to neighbours by barking unnecessarily whilst in Accommodation.
5. Your Dog should be in good health and regularly groomed. You should register it with a vet to ensure it has regular health checks.
6. Any damage caused by the dog will be charged to its owner.

For further information use the link below for frequently asked questions

<http://www.assistedogs.org.uk/faqs/#general>

Definition of service dogs in America

https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html

https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html

Before bringing an Assistance dog into the UK you must ensure that the organisation you are registered with is accredited to ADUK which is a registered charity and welcomes applications for full membership from other charities that have been accredited by Assistance Dogs International or the International Guide Dogs Federation.

Please note the types of accommodation you will be offered may be limited due to the suitability of University accommodation for dogs.

Version number	Purpose / changes	Document status	Author of changes, role and school / unit	Date
1.1	To comply with guidance from EHRC on definition of an assistance dog		Operations Manager	19/5/20
1.2	Minor changes to terminology		Operations Manager	15/6/22