



Estates Facilities & Residences Department

Animals on Campus Policy

Introduction

This document provides detailed guidance on Aberystwyth University's (AU) policy and procedure for the presence of all animals on its Estate. It is the responsibility of the Estates, Facilities & Residences Department to ensure compliance with the policy. It is designed to assist students, staff, and visitors to identify the services offered to support animals that are legitimately on Campus and to set out the circumstances in which animals can be brought on to the AU Estate.

Policy

It is AU policy that, subject to limited exceptions, animals are not permitted into university property including residential accommodation, workplaces, vehicles, and grounds and that:

- No animal should be left in a parked vehicle on campus.
- Animals must not be tied up outside buildings.
- Animals are not permitted on our playing fields or sports facilities.

Notable exceptions

- Animals (usually dogs) who will be used to provide training for students on any degree scheme at the Veterinary Education Centre.
- Assistance animals for people with disability.
- Assistance animals for the health and wellbeing of staff or/and student.
- Assistance animals undertaking approved training.
- Aberystwyth University approved working animal.
- Emergency service animals on duty.
- Visitors walking on the public right of ways through the University grounds.
- Visitors to the University for Events such as Open Days, Graduation etc.

Visitor exceptions

It is appreciated that it is very difficult to police such a policy regarding visitors on campus and it is therefore intended to provide strategically placed signage that will inform them of their responsibilities. In addition, the signs will point the owners to the location of this policy for further information. AU will not provide animal waste bins as the norm as owners would be expected to

manage this independently and AU does not have the resource to empty such bins. All dogs must be always kept on leads and are prohibited from entering any buildings.

Approved working animal

An animal that provides other services within the University such as a Sheep Dog.

Veterinary Education Centre

The department will manage all animals brought into their buildings independently but in accordance with this policy.

- They will ensure that when they make use of departmental personnel's own animals and bring them onto campus that a record will be kept, and all relevant staff are consulted and agree. This will ensure any staff allergies or fears are taken into consideration.
- The department will be responsible for any damages to fixtures and fittings.
- Any animal excrement will be taken off University premises to be disposed.
- Any dogs must be always kept on a lead whilst on university grounds.

Health and Wellbeing

Aberystwyth University recognises that many people experience health and wellbeing benefits from interaction with animals. We will support events such as Canine Calming Days organised by the Students Union during examination periods. All events need to be reported to the Estates, Facilities and Residences Department in advance.

Assistance Animals

This policy outlines the arrangements AU make to provide a safe and welcoming environment for assistance animals and their owners. It is the responsibility of the line manager to ensure that staff with assistance animals are aware of this policy. Academic Registry will ensure students are aware of this policy as part of the admissions procedure.

Interaction with Assistance Animals and their Owners

All staff, students and visitors should note that assistance animals are at work, performing tasks to assist a person with a disability and should **not** be treated as pets by other people.

- Do not call, startle, distract, feed, pet or praise the animal while it is working as it needs to focus on its owner. By distracting the animal, you may put the owner and/or animal in danger.
- Do not distract the owner while the animal is working.
- Do not separate, or attempt to separate, an assistance animal from the person using the animal's service.

Definition of an Assistance Animal

For this policy, an assistance animal, usually a dog, is one that has been specifically trained to assist a person with a disability. It will be registered with Assistance Dogs UK (ADUK) or an equivalent organisation in a different country.

ADUK cover the following organisations:

- 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

Assistance Dogs UK is a voluntary coalition of accredited assistance dog charities.

All ADUK member charities have passed an accreditation process that covers their training of animals and administration.

All ADUK animals have a formal identification in the form of branded jackets or lead slips and have the yellow ID booklet from the ADUK member organisation. This ID book contains information about the owner and their dog and details of the training organisation who trained both the dog and its owner.

Types of Assistance Dog

Guide dogs – assisting people who are blind or are visually impaired.

Hearing dogs – assist people who are deaf or are hearing impaired.

Support dogs/Dogs for people with a disability – who provide support for many tasks that their owners may find difficult, such as:

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

Seizure alert / medical detection dogs - are trained to behave in a specific way when they detect a potential seizure or event, which may appear as misbehaving to others.

Autism assistance dogs – are trained to provide safety and companionship which promotes independence and stress relief.

Emotional support or therapy animals

Therapy dog is rather a general term and is often used to describe a dog that is used to benefit people in a therapeutic way. This incorporates quite a wide range of potential activities with a wide range of potential people and clients. Some pets take part in visiting

programmes, whilst others take part in structured activities as part of a therapeutic programme or practice. Therapy dogs in the UK are not considered to be assistance dogs – this is because an assistance dog is trained to perform specific tasks to help a disabled person and are usually qualified by one of the charitable organisations registered as members of Assistance Dogs UK.

An assistance dog is legally permitted to accompany its client, owner, or partner, at all times and in all places, within the United Kingdom. A therapy dog does not have these same legal privileges.

This policy relates only to registered assistance animals. Any request for a therapy or support animal to be present on the campus will be subject to a separate and specific arrangement. If permission for an emotion support or therapy animal in student accommodation is granted it is essential that adequate insurance is in place by the student prior to moving in. A copy of the insurance policy will need to be provided.

Owner's responsibilities

Prior to attending AU, assistance animal owners must request permission from the Estates, Facilities & Residences Department to bring their animal to the University site. Information will be required about the animal, its tasks and duties and its welfare needs.

Assistance animals must be clearly identifiable when on duty, at all times, by the use of the registered collar, jacket, lead, or harness.

Owners are responsible for ensuring that their assistance animals are covered by full liability insurance and a valid copy must be held by the Estates, Facilities & Residences Department.

Assistance animal owners must respect access restrictions established by AU on grounds of health and safety. Owners must ensure that assistance animals do not enter staff and students' privately assigned spaces, such as bedrooms and flats within residences, without permission.

Preventing and correcting assistance animals' misbehaviour is the owner's responsibility. Owners must make sure that their assistance animals do not cause harm or injury to others or damage to AU property. Owners must ensure that the animal always behaves in an appropriate manner so as not to disrupt others.

Although registered blind people are not required to clean up after their guide dogs, they are expected to have received the appropriate training to avoid dog waste on Campus.

Assistance animal users share responsibility for the clean-up of the animal's waste, consistent with reasonable capacity. Owners must use the designated areas identified by AU and not allow animals to foul the buildings, paths, or grounds on Campus. In the unlikely event that the animal does foul outside of these designated areas, the owner must report this to the Estates, Facilities & Residences Department who will arrange for the area to be cleaned and sanitised.

Animal care is the owner's responsibility, and they must ensure regular health checks, vaccination and an adequate standard of grooming are carried out. Owners must ensure the assistance animal has its requirements in relation to feeding, watering and toileting fully met. Owners must ensure that assistance dogs are always kept on a lead when walking around the Campus or safely harnessed when unsupervised for short periods.

Owners of assistance animals that are ill, in poor health, excessively unclean or unkempt will be requested to remove the animal from AU premises.

AU is not liable for the loss, ill health, or death of the assistance animal.

Owners are responsible for the training needs of their assistance animals, for the correct and safe performance of their duties.

Owners are responsible for ensuring they have an adequate insurance policy in place.

Aberystwyth University responsibilities and considerations

When assistance animals are in AU properties, reasonable site-specific guidelines will be agreed with the owner. These will be agreed by the Director of Estates, Facilities & Residences in conjunction with relevant Heads of Departments for staff and Student Support Services for students and the assistance animal user, and will deal with specific points, for example access to communal open areas. Assistance animal users are required to comply with the conditions of those guidelines.

AU will consider the provision of spending areas for assistance animals and water bowls. The Estates, Facilities & Residences Department would maintain the areas to a state that ensures the animal's health and the owner's safety. They would also make provision for disposing of waste (for assistance dogs only).

The spending areas would be designed and constructed in line with the guidance given in BS8300-2:2018 (Buildings) and Guide Dogs 'Guidance on the provision of spending facilities for guide dogs and other assistance dogs' <http://www.guidedogs.org.uk>

Familiarisation with and orientation on the campus as part of induction.

When a resident student has an assistance animal, the Accommodation Office are responsible for informing other students in the accommodation who are likely to encounter the assistance animal and ask them to confirm that they would not be adversely affected by the presence of the animal.

Student Support Services will advise students with assistance animals and signpost them to this policy to make them aware of the help provided by AU and their rights and responsibilities. Student Services will liaise with the student's academic department and accommodation to ensure that any reasonable adjustments needed have been made.

Student Support and HR will be responsible for liaising with student/staff/assistance animal providers re training on assistance dog etiquette.

AU is happy to listen to the suggestions of assistance animal owners as to how provision for the assistance animal may be improved.

Complaints about animals on campus

If a student or staff member with an assistance animal wishes to make a complaint about the treatment of themselves or the animal, or if a student or staff member wishes to make a complaint or express concern about an animal on Campus then they should report this to the Estates, Facilities & Residences Department by email to efastaff@aber.ac.uk or for students in accommodation to accommodation@aber.ac.uk. This will be raised with the individual and their line manager/Head of Department/Student Support Services. Every attempt will be made to resolve the matter informally with the owner, including where necessary appropriate mediation. If

the matter cannot be resolved informally, or the informal resolution is not complied with, then the issue will be escalated and dealt with through the staff or student disciplinary procedure.

The potential hazards and concerns associated with having animals on the University premises are:

- Allergic reactions and transmission of disease
- Religious objections
- 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
- Stalled or delayed evacuation of a building in an emergency
- Aggressive behaviour of animals

AU reserves the right to refuse access for any animal if regular infringements of this policy occur.

In the event of an animal (other than those covered in the points above) being discovered in any AU building, grounds or vehicle please notify -

Site Security on 01970 622649 (x 2649 from an internal phone) or [email sitesecurity@aber.ac.uk](mailto:sitesecurity@aber.ac.uk)

In the case of a stray dog or fox, no attempt should be made to try and handle or harness the animal, please wait for the arrival of assistance.

NB For the purpose of this policy animals have been referred to as animals but it is understood that in many cases it is likely to be a dog.

Policy updated with assistance from AccessAble

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Review with no amendments

April 2024