

Animals/Dogs on Campus Policy



**Harper Adams
University**

March 2019

HARPER ADAMS UNIVERSITY

Health and Safety Policies

Animals/Dogs on Campus: Our Policy

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1. Introduction

Harper Adams University (HAU) does not permit or encourage staff, students or visitors to bring their personal domestic pets inside any University owned, leased or controlled buildings, vehicles or structures. However, the University recognises that a dog kept and used by a disabled person (as defined by the Equality Act 2010) wholly or mainly for the purpose of assisting that person to carry out day to day activities (an “**Assistance Dog**”), will require access to the University’s estate, relevant buildings and University-owned student accommodation.

HAU are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone and outline the following exceptions to this Policy:

- Approved Working Dogs for Training Purposes
- Assistance Dogs (registered and trained through Assistance Dogs UK)

There are hazards associated with having Dogs on campus so some restrictions may apply in some areas, such as, but not limited to, the Laboratories, Food Innovation Centre, and the Farm.

All enquiries from persons wishing to bring an animal onto campus, will be considered on an individual basis and dependent upon the conditions of the request. These enquiries should be directed to the Student Accommodation Manager, Conference Manager or Health and Safety Officer at the point of accommodation application, or planned visit to campus, which must be in advance of arrival on the campus.

HAU completely conforms to the RSPCA recommendations that pet animals should not be left alone in parked vehicles. Any person choosing to do this should consider their actions very carefully as they could be fined or prosecuted by the Police or by the RSPCA if they are found to be doing this. Dogs should not be brought onto campus or tied up outside of buildings.

In all circumstances visitors should be discouraged from bringing dogs on to Campus. However, on open days when visitors come to Campus, it is understood that bringing a dog to Campus may be unavoidable. On the rare occasions this may happen, it may be necessary for those dogs to be exercised for short periods on University property. In such circumstances the owners must ensure at all times that dogs are kept on leads and are not allowed into any buildings or on to playing fields. The owners will be responsible for collecting any waste deposited and disposing of it responsibly.

2. Definitions

a. Approved Working Animals (Dogs/cats) for Training Purposes

These are animals (dogs/cats) that are used by staff for their teaching duties in the Animal Production, Welfare and Veterinary Sciences Department. The animals have been familiarised with being handled by various people, without their owner necessarily being present.

These animals may also be used by students of the University for their Research Projects (both undergraduate and postgraduate students) which are based in/immediately surrounding the Veterinary Services Centre/Veterinary Nursing Unit/Centre for Animal Wellbeing.

The use of these animals in and around the University should be authorised by the Head of the Department.

The owner/member of staff will ensure they are secured in their rooms when they are not 'working'.

In addition, there will be limited, controlled and pre-notified access for dogs belonging to charities, such as Pets as Therapy and Hilbrae Rescue, for both teaching purposes and during examination periods.

b. Animals Visiting the Veterinary Services Centre (VSC) for Rehabilitation Purposes

These are animals attending consultations, following veterinary referral, for rehabilitation purposes along with their owner(s). The animals will have access limited to the VSC building and its immediate surroundings.

c. Assistance Dogs

An Assistance Dog is an animal which is trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people with visual impairments, alerting people with hearing impairments, pulling a wheelchair, alerting the owner when a seizure is likely, etc. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task an Assistance Dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability.

Assistance Dogs are fully trained by members of Assistance Dogs (UK) (www.assistancedogs.org.uk) and will have formal identification in the form of branded harness, lead, collar or ID tags on the collar along with an ADUK branded ID book (see section 4).

d. Therapy and Support Animals

A therapy animal (also known as an emotional support animal) is an animal that provides emotional support or passive comfort that alleviates one or more of the identified symptoms or effects of disability. Unlike Assistance Animals, a Therapy Animal does not assist a person with a disability with activities of daily living, nor does it accompany a person with a disability at all times.

The University does not currently approve of Therapy and Support Animals in the workplace or student accommodation.

e. Pets

A pet is an animal belonging to a person that may provide comfort but does not assist a person with any disability or activities of daily living. They are not covered in this policy. Student Residents are not allowed to keep pets in University housing. Where Staff live on campus as part of their role, pets may be kept with the University's agreement, but should be kept within the residential property boundaries as far as possible. Where dogs are exercised and involves passing through the grounds of the University to a suitable public right of way, the arrangements set out for visitors with regard to use of leads and management of any waste should be followed.

The University does not currently approve of Pets in the workplace, in student accommodation or to be brought onto campus.

3. Approved Working Dogs on University premises

Approved working dogs are only permitted to access those areas for training and teaching purposes and to the member of staff/owners' place of work. They will have restricted access to other areas across the University.

4. Assistance Dogs on University premises

An Assistance Dog from one of the members of Assistance Dogs (UK) would be considered via a specific request. A request would be given consideration pending other arrangements that may need to be implemented, such as accessible areas for learning and teaching.

Assistance Dogs (UK) is a coalition of Assistance Dog organisations, individual members of which are listed below:

- [Canine Partners](#)
- [Dog A.I.D. \(Assistance in Disability\)](#)
- [Dogs for Good](#)
- [Guide Dogs](#)
- [Hearing Dogs for Deaf People](#)
- [Medical Detection Dogs](#)
- [Support Dogs](#)
- [The Seeing Dogs Alliance](#)

Please note that Assistance Dogs are highly trained working dogs, performing tasks to assist disabled persons.

Members of the University community should not:

- Touch or feed an Assistance Dog, unless invited to do so by their owner;
- Deliberately distract or startle an Assistance Dog; or
- Separate or attempt to separate an Assistance Dog from the person using the Assistance Dog's service.

Assistance Dogs are permitted to access authorised areas of the University premises under the control of their handlers, who may be students, staff members or visitors to the University.

Only Assistance Dogs will be permitted in food outlet areas.

The University will consider all such applications on an individual basis and dependent upon the conditions of the request. These enquiries should be directed to the Student Accommodation Manager, Conference Manager or Health and Safety Officer at the point of accommodation application, which must be in advance of arrival on the campus.

5. Therapy and Support Animals

Therapy and support animals are different to Assistance Dogs and the University does not currently approve of Therapy and Support Animals in the University.

6. Pets

This Policy details protocol for Assistance Dogs and Working Animals.

The University does not permit staff or student's pets to be brought into the University's buildings or onto campus. Where staff live on campus and have a pet, such pets should be exercised responsibly in suitable areas located away from the campus as far as possible. Owners must clean up after their animal as necessary.

7. Requests from Clients

From time to time we may consider requests from external clients wishing to hold events on campus involving animals, including dogs. All requests will be considered on an individual basis and will be discussed with those persons whom manage particular areas of campus that may be affected by such a presence, prior to a decision being made.

8. Assistance Dogs Owners' Responsibilities

When Assistance Dogs are in University properties, their owners must comply with the following guidelines:

- a. Information – Assistance Dog owners shall provide information about the animal and its tasks/duties, if reasonably requested by University Staff. In the event that an Assistance Dog is accepted to reside in University accommodation, the information given about the Assistance Dog would need to be circulated to other residents.
- b. Identification – Assistance Dog owners must ensure that their Assistance Dogs are clearly identifiable by the use of special collars, harness and/or ID tags when on duty.
- c. Insurance – Assistance Dog owners are responsible for ensuring that their assistance dogs are covered by full liability insurance.
- d. Access restrictions – Assistance Dog owners must respect access restrictions established by the University on grounds of health and safety. Assistance dog owners must ensure that Assistance Dogs do not enter staff and students' privately assigned spaces, such as bedrooms and flats within residences, without permission.
- e. Animal misbehaviour – Preventing and correcting Assistance Dogs' misbehaviour is the owner's responsibility. Assistance Dog owners must make sure that their Assistance Dogs do not cause harm or injury to others and damage to University property.

- f. Cleanliness – Registered blind people are not required to clean up after their Assistance Dogs but they are expected to have received the appropriate training to avoid dog waste on campus. Assistance Dog owners must take responsibility for the clean-up of the animal's waste, consistent with reasonable capacity. Assistance Dog owners shall use reasonable endeavours to use the designated spending (toileting) areas identified by the University.

In the unlikely event that the Assistance Dog does spend outside of these designated areas, the Assistance Dog owner must report this to the Health and Safety department, who will make arrangements for the area to be cleaned and sanitised.

- g. Animal care and supervision – Animal care is primarily the Assistance Dog owner's responsibility. The owner ensures regular health checks, vaccination and an adequate standard of grooming of the Assistance Dog. Assistance Dog owners must ensure the Assistance Dog has its requirements in relation to feeding, watering and toileting fully met. Owners must ensure that Assistance Dogs are kept on a lead at all times when walking around the University's estate or are safely restrained when unsupervised for short periods of time.

In order to support Assistance Dogs owners who are students or staff, the University will provide access to the disabled toileting facilities, in an appropriate location for the Assistance Dog owner, as soon as is practical, once a need has been identified and communicated to the University.

- h. Animal training – Assistance Dog owners are responsible for any additional training needs for their assistance dogs and for the correct and safe performance of their duties

9. Complaints and Conflict situations

Removal of Assistance Dog

The University reserves the right to remove or bar entry to an Assistance Dog when it poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others.

Unresolved animal misbehaviour, such as (but not limited to) continuous barking and scratching doors or flooring, may also provide grounds for removal. The University will allow reasonable measures to be taken by owners to address issues where appropriate and where possible. If an animal does need to be removed from University premises, notice of no more than two weeks will be given to the Owner, during which alternative arrangements would need to be made.

Welfare

Where concerns are raised about the welfare of any Assistance Dogs, the University reserves the right to investigate those concerns and expects students to co-operate fully with those investigations. The University reserves the right to take appropriate action to address any such concerns where it finds that they are justified.

Damage

Assistance Dog owners are responsible for any damage to persons or University property.

Restricted access

The University may restrict access of assistance Dogs to certain areas for health and safety reasons. Restricted areas may include research laboratories, medical facilities, areas where protective clothing is required, boiler rooms, areas containing livestock, etc. Applications for exceptions will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Conflicting disabilities

Where an Assistance Dog poses health risk to an/other student/s, the University will seek relevant information and supporting documentation (which may include medical documentation) from the affected party/parties to determine suitable alternative and equitable arrangements for either or both parties.

Religious or cultural conflicts

Religious or cultural beliefs cannot be used to prohibit access to assistance Dogs and their owners.

Complaints

Any issues in relation to assistance dogs on University premises that cannot be resolved informally should be raised in accordance with the University's complaints handling procedure.