

## **Policy on Animals on University Premises**

### **Introduction**

This document outlines the University's approach to animals on all University premises. The University recognises that there may be occasions where it is required or desirable for animals to be present on site. This policy has therefore been introduced to ensure needs of all users of our buildings are taken into account. This policy seeks to allow some flexibility to allow situations to be managed sensibly and on an individual basis, where required. This policy applies to all colleagues, students, and visitors to the University buildings.

### **Policy**

It is the University's policy that, subject to the exceptions given below, live animals are not permitted:

- In University buildings, residential accommodation, and wider grounds
- To be left in parked cars on campus
- To be tied up outside University buildings

### **Exceptions to this policy**

#### **Assistance dogs**

Assistance dogs are permitted access to University buildings and grounds under control of their owner. This is based on current Equality Act 2010 legislation relating to reasonable adjustments. An Assistance dog is recognised as an animal specifically trained to provide assistance to a disabled individual. Guide dogs are the most common type of assistance dog, used by those who are blind or visually impaired. However this policy recognises that other assistance dogs may be used for those with other conditions such as hearing loss, physical impairments, epilepsy or seizure related disorders. Assistance dogs are trained by members of the [Assistance Dogs \(UK\)](#) or by an equivalent organisation in other countries.

The Assistance dog is the responsibility of the owner at all times. The University reserves the right to remove an Assistance dog in the unlikely event that they pose a direct threat to the health and safety of others.

Requests for Assistance dogs to be brought onto University premises by a colleague or student will be discussed with Estates Planning and Services, via their line manager (colleague) or Disability Learning Support (for students). This will enable appropriate access requirements and required on site facilities to be established. Residential Services will be included in this discussion where it relates to the Halls of Residence. Safety, Health and Wellbeing will be contacted by exception. Such requests will not normally be refused however it is essential that appropriate facilities on site to support the presence of an Assistance dog can be enabled.

For unplanned access e.g. a visitor attending the University for an ad-hoc event such as an Open Day, conference etc, access will be permitted without the prearranged measures being required.

## **An approved working animal**

This relates to a working animal that is required to perform a specific role including such as a police dog assisting law enforcement, providing pest control services e.g birds of prey etc.

## **Animals used for therapeutic purposes**

At certain times of the year the University or the University of Westminster Students' Union (UWSU) will engage professional organisations to bring therapeutic pets on the campus. This practice will be undertaken with full risk assessment and management controls in place to limit any associated risks.

Currently individual emotional/therapy support animals are not formally classed as Assistance animals. Therefore, they will not be permitted on site or outside of the above group run activity. The University will continue to monitor legal developments in this area and revise the policy where necessary.

## **Animals held for scientific or educational purposes**

Such animals must be maintained under the highest standards of care and welfare. All those working with animals are expected to take a proactive interest in the welfare of the animals in their charge and to ensure that their work complies with the highest ethical standards. Risks and suitable control measures associated with this activity should be documented in a risk assessment and communicated as appropriate. This policy does not cover The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

## **Other exceptions**

Any other request for animals to be on site will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. This may include attendance at ad-hoc events etc. Permission should be sought from the Head of Department (or equivalent) and arrangements discussed with the campus Estates Planning and Services team for the appropriate site in advance of any animal being brought on site.

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