

Animals on Brunel Premises			
Policy✓	Code of Practice...	Guidance...	Procedure...
Organisation-wide✓		Local...	
Approved by the University Health & Safety Committee			
Chair Dr Derek Millard-Healy	Date October 2023	Review date 2026	
The purpose of presenting this documents to the University Health and Safety Committee			
Standard 3 year re-fresh✓	Changes in practice and/or legislation...	New Policy...	

Introduction

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.

Bringing a pet animal into a Brunel University London building is prohibited.

Scope

This organisational policy applies to the Uxbridge campus as a whole.

Key Definitions:

1. Support Animals:

Accredited Assistance Dogs

Working dogs that have been trained by accredited member organisations of Assistance Dogs International (ADI) and the International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF).

Assistance dogs (guide dogs, hearing dogs, service or support, seizure alert dogs) are allowed into University buildings under the control of their owner. The University will work with members of staff or students who have a disability, and require an assistance dog, to identify support needs and make reasonable adjustments in order to provide a safe and welcoming environment.

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

- University members (staff or student) with a disability who utilise an assistance animal (or one in training) shall register in advance with:
 - a. [Student Wellbeing](#) (students)
 - b. [Human Resources Team](#) (Staff)
- A risk assessment must be completed in advance of the assistance animal first arriving on campus.
- Assistance dogs must:
 - be trained by a member of [Assistance Dogs UK](#) (AD(UK)), a coalition of assistance dog organisations listed below or an equivalent organisation in another country.
 - have a formal identification in the form of branded jackets or lead slips.
 - have the yellow ID booklet from the AD(UK) member organisation. This ID book contains information about the owner and their dog, details of the training organisation who trained the dog and its owner. There are seven registered charities that form AD (UK), these are:
 - [Canine Partners](#)
 - [Dog A.I.D.](#)
 - [Dogs for the Disabled](#)
 - [Guide Dogs](#)
 - [Hearing Dogs for Deaf People](#)
 - [Medical Detection Dogs](#)
 - [Support Dogs](#)

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”.

Emotional support/Therapy animals

A therapy animal or emotional support animal is an animal that provides emotional support to help alleviate identified symptoms or effects of disability or mental health condition. A therapy animal does not necessarily aid with mobility and does not assist with practical daily tasks.

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. There is currently no recognised accreditation of emotional support animals. The University therefore reserves the right to refuse access to any animal at its discretion that is not accredited (as detailed in section 1 above).

Brunel University London recognises the positive impact animals have on wellbeing and in providing emotional assistance. The university will review, on a case by case basis, as required. In exceptional circumstances and when there is clear medical evidence provided, consideration will be given to requests by students to bring emotional support/therapy animals to University. (If approved, the conditions in Appendix 1 also apply.)

2. Other Animals:

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.

Approved working animal: An animal, usually a dog, which provides other services within the University, such as assisting in law enforcement. These animals are only permitted on campus when organised by or with the Security team.

Animals involved in short term University Events or Activities:- Organised events/activities (e.g. puppy yoga, mental health and wellbeing activities and teaching). These animals will only be permitted on campus when a suitable risk assessment has been completed and reviewed, and advice sought from the Health, Safety and Environment Team.

Laboratory animals: - Laboratory animals are subject to separate [policies](#) and controls, the University being strongly committed to reaching the very best level of international practice. Brunel's stated policy is that animals may only be used in research programmes where their use is shown to be essential for developing new treatments and making medical advances.

Unaccompanied animals/animals not listed above

In the event of an animal (other than those covered above) being discovered in any University building, grounds or vehicle, please notify the **Security Control Room**. You can contact Security by dialling 66943 internally or 01895 255786 from an outside line.

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.

Appendix 1: Assistance Dogs Owners' Responsibilities

Information

Assistance dog owners must provide the university with the relevant information as outlined above. They should be able to provide information about the animal and its tasks/duties, when requested by University staff.

Identification

Assistance dog owners must ensure that their assistance dogs are clearly identifiable by the use of special collars and/or harnesses when on duty.

Insurance

Owners are responsible for ensuring that their assistance dogs are covered by full liability insurance and must provide a copy to the University.

Animal training

Owners are responsible for the training needs of their assistance dogs, for the correct and safe performance of their duties. A copy of the yellow ID booklet from the AD(UK) member organisation must be provided to the University.

Access restrictions

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

Animal misbehaviour

Preventing and correcting assistance dog's misbehaviour is the owner's responsibility. Owners must make sure that their assistance dogs do not cause harm or injury to others and damage to University property.

Cleanliness

Registered blind people are not required to clean up after their guide dogs but they are expected to have received the appropriate training to avoid dog waste on campus. Assistance dog users share responsibility for the clean-up of the animal's waste, consistent with reasonable capacity. Owners must use the designated areas identified by the University. In the unlikely event that the dog does foul outside of these designated areas, the owner must report this to the [Site Services Team](#), who will make arrangements for the area to be cleaned and sanitised.

Animal care and supervision

Animal care is the owner's responsibility. The owner ensures regular health checks, vaccination and an adequate standard of grooming. 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 estate or safely harnessed when unsupervised for short periods of time.



Brunel University is not responsible for the loss, ill health, or death of the assistance dog animal.

The University is happy to listen to the suggestions of assistance dog owners as to how provision for the assistance dog may be improved.

Appendix 2: Advice for staff/students interacting with staff or students requiring assistance dogs

Members of the university community shall not:

- Feed, pet or praise assistance dogs.
- Deliberately distract or startle an assistance animal; or
- Separate or attempt to separate an assistance animal from the person using the animal's service.

Please note that seizure alert dogs are trained to behave differently when they detect a potential seizure and they can appear to be misbehaving.

Please note assistance animals are at work, performing tasks to assist persons with disabilities and are *not* pets. Talk to the handler, not the animal, please be mindful that sometimes handlers won't have time to stop and talk.

When assistance dogs are in University properties we may need to agree reasonable site-specific guidelines. These will be produced in consultation with the Health, Safety and Environment Team, the Estates Team and with HR or Student Wellbeing in conjunction with relevant local managers and the assistance dog user, and will deal with specific points, for example access to communal open areas. Assistance dog users are required to comply with the conditions of those guidelines.