

DOGS ON CAMPUS



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Summary: This policy summarises the circumstances under which dogs may be brought onto campus	

DOGS ON CAMPUS

The University of Winchester recognises that pet ownership is a key element of well-being for many. Many would own dogs if they could be sure that they would be welcome in the work-place. Studies have shown that bringing dogs into work can help to reduce stress and enhance morale in the work place and not just for the dog owner. The University is committed to animal welfare, the human-animal bond and responsible pet ownership. The University is also committed to a clean and safe working environment where the needs of all are respected including those who are allergic to dogs or those who do not wish to be around dogs. This policy outlines under what circumstances dogs¹ owned by staff of the University may be allowed on campus and in campus facilities. Failure to follow this Code of Conduct will result in owners being forbidden to bring their dogs onto the Campus and may result in no dogs being allowed on site.

1. Students living in University Halls of Residence or in University Managed Housing are not permitted to keep any kind of pet, with the exception of seeing, hearing and/or emergency alert dogs where the need for a close relationship 24 hours per day 7 days per week is stipulated by a medical practitioner.
2. Members of staff may only bring a dog into work if they have the explicit, written approval of their line-manager and all the required paperwork including copies of a vaccination certificate, insurance policy and a risk assessment has been forwarded to the University Safety Manager annually.
3. All dogs must be handle-able by others in the absence of the owner. The dog must be well socialised with both people and other dogs – if the dog displays any sign of threatening or aggressive behaviour, ill health, offense, nuisance or distress to other members of the community, this will result in the dog being banned. The dog should not show signs of anti-social behaviour e.g. repetitive barking.
4. Where staff are permitted by their line manager to bring a dog into work they must make clear to colleagues and to students and visitors (as appropriate) through clear signage when and where the dog is present and arrange meetings in an alternative location if colleagues/students/visitors cannot or do not wish to be in the same space as a dog.
5. If staff share an office dog owners must have the explicit permission of the other occupants of the office, before they bring their dog in. Colleagues must not feel under any pressure to give such permission. Where permission is granted a maximum of two dogs per office will be allowed.
6. Dog owners must complete a Risk Assessment form before bringing their dog onto campus.
7. Dogs must have an up to date Certificate of Vaccination, flea treatment and insurance that includes full public liability to include cover to bring their dog to work.
8. Dogs may not be brought onto campus unless they are under the control of their owner at all times and restrained by a short leash when out of the office and must wear proof of identification in the form of a collar and disc regardless of whether or not the dog has been micro-chipped.
9. Dogs must not be left unattended on campus for any significant period of time.
10. Dogs must not be left in their owner's vehicle.
11. Dog owners will provide a basket or blanket for their dog to protect the carpet in their office. They will provide water/food bowls and towels for their dog.
12. Dogs are not normally permitted in any public areas including areas where food is prepared and or consumed food areas, teaching rooms, library, IT suites, SCR, SU, toilets, University Centre or in University vehicles.
13. Owners are responsible for cleaning up faeces immediately and disposing of all faeces in bags in the general waste bins provided.

¹ This policy does not apply to seeing, hearing and/or emergency alert dogs who are always permitted on campus.

14. The University has identified the Dytche as the walking area for dogs.
15. Dogs will remain the responsibility of their owners at all times. The University reserves the right to immediately and permanently ban from campus a dog that causes any harm or nuisance or damage to people or property, which is the liability of the owner. Disciplinary action may be taken against any member of staff who fails to control their dog. The University reserves the right to charge staff for any additional cleaning, repairing or refurbishing required of office space as a result of the presence of a dog.
16. If the dog causes injury without provocation or reasonable cause to anyone or other dogs, this will result in the dog being banned.
17. New dogs kept on campus as replacements for existing animals, are subject to approval by the line manager.
18. Dogs identified as Specially Controlled Dogs by the Dangerous Dogs Act (1991 amended 1997, 2014) are not permitted on campus.
19. This Code of Conduct applies at all times, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
20. Staff should bear in mind that changing circumstances may result in permission for their dog to be on campus being withdrawn and should therefore make sure that they always have viable alternative arrangements for dog-care.