

Animals on College Property v1.6

Introduction

Imperial College London generally prohibits individuals from bringing animals inside any College-owned, leased, or controlled buildings, vehicles or structures.

The main hazards and concerns associated with having animals in College premises are:

- Stalled or delayed evacuation of a building in an emergency situation
- Aggressive behaviour of animals
- Allergic reactions and transmission of disease
- Zoophobia (phobia of animals that causes distress or dysfunction in an individual's everyday life)
- Slips, trips and falls
- Animal waste
- Damage to College property

It is acknowledged that these hazards also apply to College grounds, albeit to a lesser extent.

In order to minimise these risks, subject to the two exceptions given below, animals are not permitted in College buildings, including halls of residence, but not other private staff domestic accommodation.

Policy

- It is the College's policy that, subject to the limited exceptions, animals are not allowed into its workplaces, or its residential accommodation.
- No animals should be left in parked vehicles on campus.
- Animals must not be brought onto campuses or tied up outside buildings.
- Animals are also not permitted on our playing fields or sports facilities.

Exceptions to this Policy

1. **Assistance dogs** (guide dogs, hearing dogs, service or support, seizure alert dogs) are allowed into College buildings under the control of their owner. Estates Facilities will work with disabled College members to identify support needs and make reasonable adjustments in order to provide a safe and welcoming environment.

College members with a disability who utilise an assistance animal (or one in training) shall register in advance with:

- a. the [Disability Advisory Service](#) (students)
- b. the [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Centre](#) (Staff)

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](#)

Assistance Dogs Owners' Responsibilities

Information

Assistance dog owners must request permission from the College to bring assistance dogs into the estate in advance of arrival on College premises. They should be able to provide information about the animal and its tasks/duties, when requested by College 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 provide a copy to the College.

Access restrictions

Assistance dog owners must respect access restrictions established by the College 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 College 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 College. In the unlikely event that the dog does foul outside of these designated areas, the owner must report this to the Estates Operations [Customer Services Centre](#), 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 College estate or safely harnessed when unsupervised for short periods of time.

Owners of assistance dogs that are ill, in poor health, excessively unclean or unkempt may be required to remove the animal from College premises.

Imperial College is not responsible for the loss, ill health, or death of the assistance dog animal. The College is happy to listen to the suggestions of assistance dog owners as to how provision for the assistance dog may be improved.

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 College.

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.

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.

When assistance dogs are in College properties we may need to agree reasonable site-specific guidelines. These will be produced by the Director of Estates Operations 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.

2. Laboratory animals

Laboratory animals are subject to separate policies and controls, the College being strongly committed to reaching the very best level of international practice.

Our 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.

3. Therapy animal

An animal prescribed to an individual as part of a treatment process for a physical or mental condition. **Animal-assisted therapy** (AAT) is a type of therapy that involves animals as a form of treatment. The goal of AAT is to improve a patient's social, emotional, or cognitive functioning. Unlike an assistance dog, a therapy animal does not facilitate mobility for its owner or user or assist with daily tasks, and need not accompany its owner at all times. Therapy animals also need to be suitably trained and registered and will be assessed on a case by case basis. See <http://petsastherapy.org/>

4. Approved working animal

An animal, usually a dog, which provides other services within the College, such as assisting in law enforcement.

Procedure

In the event of an animal (other than those covered in points 1-4 above) being discovered in any College building, grounds or vehicle notify the South Kensington **Security Control Room:**
Duty Supervisor - **58900 - 58920** (internal)
Control room - +44 (0)20 7589 1000 (external)

[Other emergency Security contacts including for other campuses may be found here:](#)

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.

Director of Estates Operations

Revision dates:

February 2016 web links updated
(Review date January 2017)

November 2016 additional information provided on assistance dogs and site specific requirements, owners' responsibilities therapy and working animals added.

June 2018 change of Departmental name