



Policy on Pets in University of Edinburgh Student Accommodation

The accommodation lease for student accommodation does not allow pets in properties. The exception to this rule is for Assistance Dogs that fall into the definition below; in such cases, the dogs will be welcome where suitable accommodation is available.

Definition of Assistance Dog

For the purpose of this policy, an Assistance Dog is one which has been specifically trained to assist disabled people and which has been qualified by one of the organisations registered as a member of Assistance Dogs (UK) or an equivalent organisation in another country.

Assistance dogs trained by members of Assistance Dogs (UK) or by an equivalent organisation in another country have formal identification and are permitted to accompany their owners at all times and in all places within the United Kingdom (unless there is a genuine health and safety risk).

On the grounds of Health and Safety responsibilities to its staff, students and visitors, the University reserves the right to refuse access for a dog that:

- i. Is not qualified by one of the five membership organisations of Assistance Dogs (UK).
- ii. Dogs from other nations, which do not meet the full membership criteria of the established international assistance dog organisations – Assistance Dogs International, Assistance Dogs Europe, International Guide Dog Federation – or other such international bodies as may from time to time be recognised.

Types of Assistance Dogs:

Guide Dogs assist people who are blind or are visually impaired.

Hearing Dogs assist people who are deaf or are hearing impaired.

Support Dogs/Dogs for the Disabled: A Support Dog can be trained to do many other tasks, which their owner may find difficult or impossible; for example:

- Opening and closing doors,
- Calling an ambulance
- Picking up objects
- Assisting with dressing and undressing.
- Accompanying their owner whilst shopping etc.
- Acting as a physical support
- Raising the alarm
- Operating control buttons
- Switching lights on and off
- Carrying items
- Loading and unloading the washing machine
- Fetching the telephone and other items

Support Dogs also train dogs for people with disabilities and Seizure Alert dogs for people with epilepsy. Seizure Alert Dogs are trained to behave differently when they detect a potential seizure, which may appear to be misbehaving.

Members of Assistance Dogs (UK)

The following are registered members of Assistance Dogs (UK):

- Guide Dogs for the Blind Association (GDBA)
- Hearing Dogs for Deaf People
- Support Dogs
- Dogs for the Disabled
- Canine Partners

When Assistance Dogs are in properties, there are guidelines covering the dog's behaviour and access to any communal open areas. A sample procedure for Assistance Dogs at Blacket Avenue is shown below for guidance.

Sample guidelines for dogs on site at Blacket Avenue

Blacket Avenue is home to 48 families with around 150-200 children on site. The following guidelines have been put together to take into consideration everyone on site. The grounds are used for free play by the children and as some may be allergic or frightened of dogs we must consider everyone's welfare.

Guidelines:

- Please do not allow your dog to foul within the grounds, if the dog does unexpectedly foul please clean up after your dog. There is a wider requirement to clean up after your dog which you should be aware of.

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/training/responsible-dog-ownership/cleaning-up-after-your-dog/>

- Your dog should be kept on a lead while on site.
- Your dog should be walked out-with the accommodation grounds. There are a number of areas green areas city suitable for dog walking.
- Noise can be an issue when living in close proximity to your neighbours. While we understand that dogs will bark for a variety of reasons we ask that this is kept to a minimum whenever possible, this to prevent disruption to neighbours.
- Any damage caused by the dog will be re-charged to the dog owner.

Student residents will be required to agree to our reasonable guidelines for allowing Assistance/Support Dogs on our premises.