



## Health & Safety Animals on University Property

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<sup>1</sup> or earlier if change in legislation or on risk assessment

### Amendment Control

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1.0	Sept 2023	

Health & Safety Office  
Finance & Operations

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## 1. Introduction

It is the University's policy that, subject to the limited exceptions, animals are not allowed into its workplaces or residential accommodation. Animals must not be brought onto campuses or tied up outside buildings. Animals are also not permitted in our sports facilities.

## 2. Hazards

Edinburgh Napier University prohibits individuals from bringing animals inside any University owned, leased, or controlled buildings, vehicles or structures.

This includes the residential accommodation.

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

- Stalled 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 University property

It is acknowledged that these hazards also apply to University grounds, albeit to a lesser extent. In order to minimise these risks, subject to the two exceptions given below, animals are not permitted in University buildings, including residential accommodation.

## 3. Exceptions

### 3.1 Assistance Dogs

Assistance dogs (guide dogs, hearing dogs, service dogs) are allowed into University buildings under the control of their owner.

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

- Student Wellbeing and Inclusion (students)
- Human Resources (staff)

Assistance dogs should:

- Be trained by a member of Assistance Dogs UK (AD (UK)), a coalition of assistance dog organisations or equivalent organisations, or by individuals who train to the equivalent standard.
- Have a formal identification in the form of branded jackets or lead slips.
- Have the yellow ID booklet from the AD (UK) member organisation or equivalent documentation which contains information about the owner and their dog and details of the training received by the dog and its owner and/or a suitable and sufficient risk assessment that can be modified to suit the various areas being accessed whilst on university premises.

Please note assistance animals are at work, performing tasks to assist persons with disabilities and are not pets.

Members of the university community shall not:

- Touch or feed an assistance animal, unless invited to do so by their user.
- Deliberately distract or startle an assistance animal.
- Separate or attempt to separate an assistance animal from the person using the animal's service.

### **3.2 Animals used for therapeutic purposes**

At certain times of the year therapeutic pets are brought into the University. This practice is controlled and managed to ensure that all requirements can be met. The relevant risk assessment and management controls are put in place to manage out the risks associated with this.

A fully trained company will manage this event and staff it accordingly to ensure that the risk level is kept to the minimum.

## **4. Owner's Responsibilities on Campus**

The owner of the dog will be responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff and students are made aware that an assistance dog will be on campus.
- Advising and checking whether anyone has any allergies, phobias or issues and making the necessary adjustments to ensure owner, dog and staff/student concerns are addressed.
- Ensuring a risk assessment is completed.

## 5. Unaccompanied Animals

In the event of an unaccompanied animal being discovered in any University building or grounds, notify the Security Control Room - Ext 4444 (0131 455 4444).

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.

## 6. Further Guidance

Assistance Dogs UK

[ADUK Quick Guide – Assistance Dogs in the Workplace](#)