

## **DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

### **NON-PATIENT DOGS ON SITE: CODE OF BEHAVIOUR**

#### **Strategy & Executive Committee, January 2024**

So as to ensure a safe working and learning environment, members of the Department are generally discouraged from bringing dogs on site. Some individuals are allergic to and/or are frightened of dogs, and the development of aggression in dogs is a risk to all.

However, it is recognised that some dogs owned by members of the Department make a valuable contribution to student teaching. Members of the Department are therefore permitted to bring dogs into the Department subject to conditions described below, but this is a privilege rather than a right.

Dogs (other than patients) will only be permitted on site under the following conditions (this includes assistance dogs):

1. The owner must apply for permission to bring the dog on site (see Application form).
2. The owner must have third party liability insurance for the dog(s) in question and must provide evidence of this insurance when requested to do so. Most pet insurance policies do not cover dogs when they are kept at work. If the policy covering the dog in question does not provide cover, owners are expected to join the Dogs Trust Companion Club scheme which guarantees appropriate public liability insurance for dogs to be 'at work'.
3. The area in which the dog will be kept is to be risk assessed by the owner in consultation with the Dogs At Work Group, before the RA is reviewed by the DSO prior to bringing the dog on site.
4. Permission must then be obtained from the Head of Department (who will consult with the DSO) for the dog to be allowed on site.
5. In order to prevent dogs from being able to access the entrance to an office, dogs must be restrained in a crate or by another physical barrier (crates or other physical barriers must be provided by the owner and be suitable by design as a means of dog restraint).
6. It is unacceptable for dogs to be tied up as a means of restraint.
7. Dogs in shared offices/spaces must be restrained as above at all times and must not be loose in shared offices/spaces
8. Dogs in single person offices should be restrained as above before a visitor enters the room.
9. Dogs must be supervised and on a lead when not crated or restrained by a barrier.

10. Dogs must not be left alone/unattended in cars anywhere on site.
11. Dogs are not permitted in the main building or in any of the small animal clinical areas.
12. Dogs are not permitted in any laboratory area/suite.
13. Dogs are not permitted in any food preparation area such as the staff room or tea rooms.
14. Dogs are not permitted in the Student Resource Centre.
15. Within the SDC building, dogs may be brought through the back door by the car parking area into the office corridor and must not go beyond room 11.
16. In other areas of the site, dogs must be walked directly to an individual's office and must remain there.
17. Dogs must not be exercised in the equine and farm animal area (Farm Animal Unit, Large Animal Unit, Hickman Building, Equine Diagnostic Unit, Merton Hall Farm), or in the equine menage under any circumstances
18. Dogs must not be exercised around the imaging area of the Hospital when horses are being examined.
19. A notice **must** be placed on the door of any office in which there is a dog, warning of the dog's presence; this is the owner's responsibility. This must include a contact number.
20. All dog faeces must be picked up both on site and off site (e.g., Coton footpath), and disposed of appropriately in the bins provided for the purpose.
21. If any dog causes a nuisance, the owner will be told to remove it from the site.
22. Owners must ensure good hand hygiene after handling dogs.
23. Owners of assistance dogs must discuss with the DSO and HoD where they need to go for work within the Department and if the dog must be with them. This will allow agreement of areas where it is safe to take the dog.
24. Please contact a member of the Clinical Skills team to discuss use of a dog for teaching purposes.
25. Members of the Department found to be in breach of the code will not be permitted to bring a dog or dogs onto the site.