

Welcoming Dogs



[Enter Organisation Logo here]

Sample Dog Policy for Homelessness Organisations and Housing Providers

Below is a brief description of what the Dogs Trust team will include in a Welcoming Dogs consultation to support your organisation to welcome dogs safely into your homelessness housing service. This dog policy and dog owner agreement will be personalised together with the service to create a bespoke document to support your work and the people that you help.

Background

Providing background on the human animal bond and why the organisation is accepting referrals with dog owners

Purpose

With a focus on H&S and animal welfare

Insurance

Advice will be provided on the inclusion of dogs and insurance

Location and provision of services

A description of the type of service(s) and location that dog owners and their dogs can be accommodated in

Managing Referrals

Information on referral pathway (including only accepting residents who already have a dog)

Access

Description on how dogs will gain access to/from the service

Rooms

Description on rooms where dogs will be housed and signage to inform other residents

Allergies to dogs

Guidance on supporting residents or staff with allergies to dogs

Flea infestations & Bed bugs

[Guidance on parasite control in the service](#)

Fear of dogs

[Guidance on supporting residents or staff with a fear of dogs](#)

Health & Safety & Hygiene

Managing risk and preventing incidents or accidents occurring in the service is an important part of accepting dogs. Information will be provided on including dogs in the service risk assessment, including robust referrals. Hygiene practices, including COVID-19 best practice will be included here

Staff Lead for Residents with Dogs

A service should appoint a staff lead with managing dogs, and levels of authority required

Staff dog owners

The organisation can position their policy on staff dogs in services here

Dog Health & Welfare

Information on animal health and welfare, including monitoring of the dogs welfare and escalations if dogs are being mistreated

Veterinary Care

Information will be included on registration to the [Dogs Trust Hope Project](#), which provides free essential and emergency veterinary treatment and will be a requirement of the dog owners stay.

Dog Owner Agreement

[Service Name and address, Logo]

[Service Name] – Dog Owner Agreement

The dog owner agreement will cover the following areas (and will be bespoke for the service)–

Dog owner has sole responsibly and legal obligations to the care of their dog

Number of dogs allowed

Owners must be referred with a dog (no permission given to keep a dog after moving in)

Owner to nominate 2 people to care for the dog in their absence

Keeping dogs under control

Meeting a dogs health and welfare needs (including use of Hope Project for Vet care, including neutering a dog)

No selling or passing on of dogs

Areas of the service a dog can/cannot be in

Dogs not being left alone/unattended for long periods

Exercising and cleaning up after a dog

Managing dogs who have shown aggressive, nuisance or destructive behaviour

Mistreatment and neglect

Rehoming of abandoned dogs

I confirm that I have read and understood the above policy, and that I agree to abide by it and fully cooperate with staff in the implementation of it. I understand that failure to do so could result in me being asked to leave/termination of my [insert accommodation agreement name as required].

Resident Name			
Dog(s) name, breed, age			
Resident Signature		Date	
Staff Name			

Sub-agreement: Named people to look after the dog:

First named person:			
Contact number(s):			
Signature		Date	
Staff signature		Date	
Second named person:			
Contact number(s):			
Signature		Date	
Staff signature		Date	

Emergency Contact:

Name			
Relationship to Dog Owner			
Address			
Telephone		Mobile No	
Email			

Veterinary Details:

Vet Name			
Address			
Telephone			
Email			
Dogs Trust Hope Project	Vet Card No:	Expiry Date:	

This is a guide for information only and does not constitute legal or veterinary advice from Dogs Trust. For legal or veterinary advice, you must consult an independent lawyer or veterinary surgeon.

For further information and advice, please contact the Hope Project directly by calling 020 7833 7688 or emailing welcomingdogs@dogstrust.org.uk

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