



ANIMALS ON SITE POLICY

Introduction

Homerton College prohibits bringing animals onto the College grounds and inside any College-owned, leased, or controlled buildings, vehicles or structures except as detailed below.

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

- 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

In order to minimise these risks, subject to the exceptions given below, animals are not permitted in College buildings, including halls of residence and therefore the keeping of pets is not permitted.

Policy

It is the College's policy that, subject to 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 College grounds or into College buildings or tied up outside buildings; animals are not permitted on our sports fields or on any of our external grounds.

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. Homerton College Bursary and Estates will work with 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 need to register in advance with the Bursar.

Assistance dogs must:

- Be trained by a member of Assistance Dogs UK (ADUK), a coalition of ten accredited assistance dog charities listed below, or by an equivalent organisation recognised internationally.
- Have formal identification in the form of branded jackets or lead slips.
- Carry the yellow ID booklet issued by the ADUK member organisation, containing information about the dog, its owner, and the training organisation.

The ten registered charities forming Assistance Dogs UK (ADUK) are:

- [Canine Partners](#)
- [Dog A.I.D. \(Assistance in Disability\)](#)
- [Dogs for Good](#)
- [The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association](#)
- [The Seeing Dogs Alliance](#)
- [Hearing Dogs for Deaf People](#)
- [Medical Detection Dogs](#)
- [Support Dogs](#)
- [Autism Dogs Charity | Assistance dogs for autistic people](#)
- [Darwin Dogs – Companion & assistance dogs – clients with diagnosed mental issues](#)

College Specific Guidelines

When assistance dogs are in College properties we may need to agree reasonable site-specific guidelines. These will be produced by the Bursary in conjunction with relevant Heads of Departments 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.

Please see Appendix for **Assistance Dogs Owners' Responsibilities**.

2. Emotional Support Animal

Requests to bring an Emotional Support Animal (ESA) onto University and/or College property will not normally be granted but would be considered on a case by case basis. Decisions to allow (or not to allow) an ESA onto University and/or College property will take into account relevant factors, such as the reasons for the request and supporting medical evidence, the health, safety and welfare of members of and visitors to the University and/or College, arrangements to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the ESA and of other animals, adequacy of training, insurance arrangements, the cost implications of any agreed arrangements and, where appropriate, laboratory requirements, licence conditions and any other relevant considerations.

3. Approved Working Animal

An animal, usually a dog, which provides other services within the College, such as assisting in law enforcement or brought onto College premises as part of the Pets as Therapy programme. <https://petsastherapy.org>

Other College Members

Students, staff and Fellows will be advised that:

“Assistance animals are at work, performing tasks to assist persons with disabilities and are not pets. Talk to the handler, not the animal, and please be mindful that sometimes handlers won't have time to stop and talk. Members of the College 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.

Policy change history		
Date	Summary of Changes	Date of next review
December 2019		
September 2025	Policy review, updated websites and links	September 2028

Appendix I - Assistance Dogs Owners' Responsibilities

Information

Assistance dog owners must request permission from the College to bring assistance dogs onto 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.

College Specific Guidelines

When assistance dogs are in College properties we may need to agree reasonable site-specific guidelines. These will be produced by the Bursary in conjunction with relevant Heads of Departments 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.

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 the Estate. Assistance dog users share responsibility for the clean-up of the animal's waste, consistent with reasonable capacity. In the unlikely event that the dog does foul on the College Estate, the owner must report this to the Porters' Lodge, 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.

Homerton 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.