

Position Statement on Assistance Animals at the University of Surrey

Accredited Assistance dogs

Accredited assistance dogs are dogs that have been trained by accredited member organisations of Assistance Dogs International (ADI) and the International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF). Assistance Dogs UK (ADUK) is a coalition of assistance dog charities that have successfully passed an extensive accreditation process that covers all aspects of their training and administration – ensuring they meet the exacting standards set by ADI and IGDF.

The University of Surrey permits accredited assistance dogs to accompany their owner into all areas of the University including office areas, library, food outlets and university accommodation.

The organisations currently registered as full members of ADUK * are listed here:

<https://www.assistancedogs.org.uk/members/>

Therapy/Emotional Support Animals

‘Therapy Animals’ or ‘Emotional Support Animals’ are used to support people with a range of support needs including mental health and autism. However, these animals are not specifically trained to carry out any particular task, as is the case with assistance dogs, but rather their role is to be a source of comfort or support to their owner/handler.

While the University of Surrey recognises the benefits that having a therapy animal can bring, any animal accompanying a student, staff member or visitor to the University must be an ADUK registered assistance dog in order to be allowed into University premises. Any unregistered therapy/emotional support animals will not be allowed into University premises, including University accommodation **.

* It is acknowledged that there are other organisations which train assistance animals and if relevant documentation can be provided, these will be considered on an individual basis;

** a request to have any animal on campus could be considered on a case-by-case basis.