

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 eight 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.

Currently the following organisations are registered full members of ADUK *:

- Canine Partners
- Dog A.I.D
- Dogs for Good
- Guide Dogs
- Hearing Dogs for Deaf People
- Medical Detection Dogs
- Support Dogs
- The Seeing Dogs Alliance

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 understands 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.