



HARTPURY

Dog Policy

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DOGS AT HARTPURY

This policy aims to safeguard dog welfare when at Hartpury when working within teaching, learning and human wellbeing activities on Hartpury campus.

1. SCOPE

It is recognised that dogs owned by staff, students, contractors and visitors, come onto Hartpury campus for various purposes. The **core principles** (section 2) outline the responsibilities of dog owners, how dogs are expected to behave and where they are permitted on campus. This is essential to ensure:

- high levels of dog welfare are maintained for dogs brought to Hartpury campus and,
- the protection and wellbeing of people (staff, students, contractors and visitors) on Hartpury campus.

Alongside the **core principles** for dogs on campus, there is additional guidance provided for specific categories:

1. Assistance/Service Dogs
2. Dogs working within Teaching
3. Dogs supporting Research
4. Dogs working within Animal Assisted Services
5. Hartpury operations (e.g. farm working dogs)

Until Hartpury is in a position to develop facilities specifically designed to support positive dog welfare, Hartpury is not able to allow access to any dog, at any time, to the campus. If dogs (and owners) have been approved through one of the above categories and continue to align with the core principles, then through that process, we know the dog's welfare will be protected.

The only exemptions apply for staff who are residents at Hartpury and have applied via HR and the Dog Policy Panel to keep their dog on site, visitors to Hartpury during events or appointments for commercial activity (e.g. dog grooming, hydrotherapy, veterinary physiotherapy) and those who use the public right of way for walking dogs.

Unless dogs are formally approved, we are not able to support their regular attendance on campus.

All staff and students should feel empowered at Hartpury to take an active role in supporting positive dog welfare on campus; this policy provides a clear and transparent framework under which dogs are permitted on campus. If you are concerned about dog welfare you should talk to the owner / handler immediately and/or contact the dog policy panel to escalate concerns.

2. CORE PRINCIPLES

i. Expectations of dog owners or handlers

- a. Dog owners are responsible for ensuring the welfare needs of their dogs are met.
- b. It is the ethical and legal responsibility of the dog owner to ensure that the physical, psychological and emotional wellbeing of the dog is neither compromised nor likely to be compromised. They must adhere to the guidance provided in the Animal Welfare Act (2006).
- c. Dog owners can delegate responsibility for their dog(s), to 'handlers', who will act to supervise dogs for a limited period; this can include taking part in 'activities' like teaching (appendix 7.2) or work (appendix 7.6).
- d. Any person handling the dog must use positive, reinforcement reward-based training methods and equipment. Physical reprimands or other strategies employed to reduce behavioural expression are not encouraged and are not viewed as a satisfactory replacement for appropriate and sensitive training to meet the needs of teaching or the dog's welfare. For example, see [Training with positive reinforcement | Training | Dogs Trust | Dogs Trust](#)
- e. Dogs should be accompanied by the dog owner or handler at all times, unless sufficient provision has been made to meet the minimum requirements outlined in section 2ii
- f. Dog owners or handlers must show consideration for other stakeholders at Hartpury, this includes ensuring noise from their dog is kept to a minimum.
- g. Dog owners or handlers must have a means to clean up after their dog, specifically to remove any faeces left by the dog and dispose of this appropriately and to rectify any incidental damage e.g., digging / dirt and removal of dog hair in buildings.
- h. For dogs which are permitted on Hartpury campus (see section 6), owners are responsible for ensuring that their dogs are insured which includes third party liability as part of the policy. A copy of this must be seen during the individual approval process.
- i. Dog handlers must know the dog well and have either passed an assessment (Section 7.2.3.b) for working with that dog and/or be competent in understanding that dog's behaviour/body language and their health and wellbeing needs.
- j. Dog owners or handlers must be able to recognise initial signs of stress, anxiety, discomfort, illness, and fatigue in the dog they are working with and act proactively to ensure these states do not escalate.
- k. Dog owners or handlers must be aware of relevant risk assessments and associated procedures, including fire evacuation.
- l. Dogs MUST NOT be exercised where they may worry livestock/quarry. It is an offence to worry livestock and if witnessed may result in the offending dog being shot on-site. Care and due regard must be given to dogs around horses and other animals residing at Hartpury.
- m. Dogs who have passed an assessment as an Approved Dog on site must be visibly identifiable on campus by displaying a Hartpury ID tag. The use of identifiable lanyards and dog ID card's may also be required by owners/handlers.
- n. Dogs present for commercial activity, including dog grooming, hydrotherapy and veterinary physiotherapy, do not require an ID tag.

II. Minimum requirements to ensure dog welfare

- a. Dogs should be in good health when visiting Hartpury campus. Dogs must be registered with a vet practice, have regular veterinary health checks, be free of parasites and receiving regular worm/flea treatment under the direction of a veterinary professional.
- b. Dogs should have up to date necessary routine vaccinations and proof of vaccinations must be declared as part of the approval process. Where owners decide not to vaccinate, evidence of a recent protective titre test may be accepted. Owners are aware of the possibility of risks when bringing unvaccinated dogs on to site and if they choose to do so, Hartpury will not be held responsible should any illness occur.
- c. If a dog shows signs of stress, anxiety, discomfort, or fatigue, they must be removed from their current situation and the issue causing the stress identified and addressed; this might mean the dog should be removed from Hartpury campus.
- d. Dogs must be kept under control at all times, by suitable or appropriate methods depending upon the location and situation e.g., dogs must be on a lead if livestock are present and whilst walking around campus.
- e. Dogs should not be expected to mix with unfamiliar dogs; except where necessary for specific activities where exemptions may apply e.g., dog grooming, training sessions etc.
- f. Dogs should be microchipped and have visible identity discs with the owner's information.

III. Environmental conditions which should be provided to dogs

- a. Dogs must have access to fresh drinking water and food as appropriate.
- b. Dogs must be given the opportunity to toilet when required, in an appropriate place, which is subsequently cleaned up and deposited appropriately.
- c. Dogs should be provided with adequate exercise.
- d. Enough space must be provided for the dog to be able to move about comfortably and lay down. As appropriate a bed and/or blanket, or other materials, can be provided to ensure the dog's comfort. The RSPCA has advice regarding environmental conditions including the use and recommended duration of crates, should these be used.
<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/dogs/environment/crates>
- e. Dogs are only permitted in Hartpury buildings when they meet the criteria outlined in section 6 and specified access is approved for the activities undertaken. There may be exceptions for areas where food is prepared and or consumed, the animal collection and laboratories where health and safety and biosecurity is compromised.
- f. Dogs are not allowed onto the sports pitches, on ornamental grass areas, gardens or experimental plots.
- g. Dogs should only be left in a vehicle as a temporary measure enacted because of extenuating circumstances and must be notified to the Dog Policy Panel. If dogs are left unattended in vehicles, the above environmental conditions should be provided. An example of appropriate use would be a client visiting for physiotherapy with two dogs but only bringing one dog at a time into the clinic.

3. EXEMPTIONS

There are specific criteria which enable some dogs access to areas of Hartpury campus ordinarily considered restricted; notably for assistance dogs (see section 7.1), and dogs supporting Hartpury activities (section 7.2-7.5). All exemptions require pre-approved agreement with the Dog Policy Panel and relevant HoD's and Directors.

4. EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Where external canine organisations are invited on-site to provide demonstrations or as part of a teaching exercise, the responsibility for animal welfare lies with the organisation. The core principles of this policy must be adhered to. Notification to the Dog Policy Panel dogs@hartpury.ac.uk should be made to ensure their attendance is known in the event of any conflicts with other activities.

5. CONFLICTS

- a. Hartpury reserves the right to remove or restrict entry to any dog when it poses a direct threat to the health & safety of others.
- b. If a dog's behaviour provides grounds for removal, all reasonable measures will have been taken to first improve these.
- c. Where a dog poses adverse health risk to an/other people/s, Hartpury will seek medical documentation from the affected party/parties to determine suitable alternative and equitable arrangements for either or both parties.

6. RELATED LEGISLATION & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Animal Welfare Act (2006). This law applies to all dog owners/keepers, ensuring that they have a legal duty of care to meet the five welfare needs of their dogs.
- Further information about The Five Freedoms is available at <https://www.fawec.org/>
- Dangerous Dogs Act (1991 amended 1997, 2014)
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018)
- Assistance Dogs – A Guide for Businesses; Equality & Human Rights Commission Equality Act 2010
- Assistance Dogs UK
- Assistance Dog Assessment Association (ADAA)
- Society for Companion Animal Studies (SCAS)
- Animal Assisted Education (AAE)
- Binder et al 2024

7. DOGS WORKING WITHIN CERTAIN ROLES

7.1. Assistance Dogs

7.1.1. Introduction

Hartpury recognises that a dog kept and working with a disabled person (as defined by the Equality Act 2010) solely or mainly for the purpose of assisting that person to carry out day to day activities, will require access on campus including residential accommodation. Hartpury recognises that assistance dogs (AD's) provide invaluable support to individuals with a range of needs and in response welcomes accredited assistance dogs registered with Assistance Dogs (UK) or one of their partner agencies on campus.

7.1.2. Definition

The Equality Act 2010, (EA2012 section 173) lays out that in relation to protecting the rights of disabled people accessing private hire transport, an Assistance dog means:

- (a) a dog which has been trained to guide a blind person;
- (b) a dog which has been trained to assist a deaf person;
- (c) a dog which has been trained by a prescribed charity to assist a disabled person who has a disability that consists of epilepsy or otherwise affects the person's mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination, or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects;
- (d) a dog of a prescribed category which has been trained to assist a disabled person who has a disability (other than one falling within paragraph (c)) of a prescribed kind.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) states that assistance dogs:

- are highly trained
- will not wander freely around the premises
- will sit or lie quietly on the floor next to its owner and are trained to go to the toilet on cue when needed and so do not foul in a public place
- Most are instantly recognisable by the harness, lead slips or identifying dog jacket they wear. However, this is not a legal requirement for owners to have their AD's wear identification of this type.

For the purpose of this policy assistance dogs are those who have been highly trained (do not require more than two cues for a behaviour) and follow the (EHRC) guidelines.

They may also be qualified by one of the organisations registered as a member of Assistance Dogs (UK) or an equivalent organisation in another country. The member charities of AD(UK) have all been accredited by Assistance Dogs International (ADI) or the International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF). Dogs registered with AD(UK) should have formal identification with them and are always permitted to accompany their

owners in all places within the United Kingdom – exceptions apply only when there is a severe risk to Health and Safety.

Assistance Dogs (UK) is a coalition of organisations; individual members of which are listed on their website <https://www.assistedogs.org.uk/members/>

Hartpury understands that some disabilities are not represented by AD(UK) and/or some people may decide to train the dog themselves or choose non-AD(UK) providers to train their dog. Therefore, not all assistance dogs are trained by AD(UK) members or candidates. Disabled people who train their own assistance dogs, or those who have an assistance dog trained by non-ADUK members, have the same rights where dogs may perform daily tasks which support their circumstances. Where organisations are not accredited by ADI or IGDF, ensuring high standards of training and assessment is of paramount importance.

For owner trained assistance dogs (OTAD's) without a previous public access test (PAT) completed, the Dog Panel can recommend undertaking a PAT with the Assistance Dog Assessment Association (ADAA) if the handler chooses.

An on-site assessment with a member of the dog panel will occur following initial enquiry to measure the dogs' suitability in the Hartpury environment.

7.1.3. Guidelines

- a. Assistance dog identification in the form of branded jackets or lead slips should be used while working.
- b. A flat collar, lead and/or harness may be worn by the AD. This excludes half check collars, slip leads, head halti's, prong collars, grommets, choke chains or e-collars.
- c. The handlers should not demonstrate any aversive handling including corrections, collar checks/'pop's, loud verbal corrections e.g. shouting. To ensure dogs can demonstrate the necessary behaviours and suitability, dogs must have reached maturity and be no younger than 13 months of age, with an average age to be 18 months or older. This can be discussed within individual applications'
- d. A yellow ID booklet from the Assistance Dogs (UK) member organisations should be available if requested; this ID book contains information about the Assistance Dog and its owner, and details of the training organisation who trained the assistance dog.
- e. Details of the owner trained organisation supporting the training for non-registered assistance dogs, plus information of the training development plan may be requested.
- f. For those teams not working with an organisation, the Dog Panel will provide questions to discuss the team's training experiences and stage of development before advising of further action.
- g. All handlers will be provided a set of questions by the dog policy to gain background information of the team's journey.
- h. Assistance dogs are highly trained working dogs, performing tasks to assist disabled persons. Therefore, other people should not:
 - i. touch or feed an assistance dog, unless invited to do so by their owner;
 - ii. deliberately distract or startle an assistance dog;

- iii. separate or attempt to separate an assistance Dog from the person using the dog's service.

Any student exploring bringing their AD onsite will need to contact the dog policy panel team at dogs@hartpury.ac.uk a minimum of 6 months in advance of the first onsite term starting. If after this time period, the student will need to be aware it may take at least 6 months to complete the process during term time.

7.1.4. Application process for AD(UK) Members

- a. Staff and students who require their assistance dog to support their activities at Hartpury should declare this as soon as possible through Human Resources or the student Admissions Team who can inform the Dog Policy panel via the email: dogs@hartpury.ac.uk
- b. Upon declaration, Hartpury will assess the application to facilitate and identify any areas where there might be conflict of interests potentially resulting in restrictions to access e.g., containment level laboratories, animal collection or where further risk assessments may be required.
- c. Information about the animal and its tasks/duties, should be made readily available to Hartpury staff if reasonably requested.
- d. Where restrictions for access are stipulated on the grounds of compromised health and safety, assistance dogs must not enter these areas and reasonable adjustment will be made (see exemptions).
- e. Once the information is gathered, the Dog Panel will arrange an onsite assessment with the team, following which confirmation of access will be provided.

7.1.5. Application Process for non-AD(UK) members (Owner Trained Assistance Dogs)

- a. Staff and students who require their owner trained assistance dog to support their activities at Hartpury need to contact the dog panel team at dogs@hartpury.ac.uk and answer a set of questions relating to their training and public experiences to date. Hartpury will provide the recommended course of action and whether further training and development is required before progressing to assessment.
- b. Upon declaration, Hartpury will assess the application to facilitate and identify any areas where there might be conflict of interests which might result in restrictions to access e.g., containment level laboratories, animal collection or where further risk assessments may be required.
- c. Information about the animal and its tasks/duties, should be made readily available to Hartpury staff if reasonably requested.
- d. Where restrictions for access are stipulated on the grounds of compromised health and safety, assistance dogs must not enter these areas, and reasonable adjustment will be made (see exemptions).
- e. Once the information is gathered, the Dog Panel will arrange an onsite assessment with the team, following which confirmation of access will be provided.

A flow diagram outlining the internal processes and stages for assistance dog applications can be found in Appendix 1.

It is assumed that assistance dogs will always accompany the owner/handler. If there are situations where the dog will be left alone, e.g. in a residential room or during a practical session, the core principles of this policy will apply. Where the dog is left with another person, they must be competent in understanding the needs of the AD. Discussions with tutors and subject area managers is encouraged to provide support in the absence of the AD and that the suitable arrangement for the dog has been agreed.

7.1.6. Exemptions

Key areas of concern may enact restrictions for specific locations:

- Biosecurity: the potential risk of infectious diseases carried by assistance dogs;
- Animal behaviour and welfare: the potential for dogs to cause stress or distress to animals in the collection, or stress caused to the dog by being in the presence of animals.
- Research laboratories
- Equine yard
- Persons with allergies and phobias

Applications for exceptions will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis following a risk assessment, implementing reasonable adjustments where necessary and final approval with subject area HoD's and Directors.

7.2 DOGS WORKING WITHIN TEACHING

7.2.1 Introduction

Hartpury recognises that staff and student dogs (pets) contribute positively to support the teaching on various courses. To ensure the objectives of the Dogs at Hartpury policy are met, when dogs are required to support teaching, the core principles within the policy need to be adhered to along with the additional requirements below. If a dog is volunteered for teaching activities, they will be assessed following the teaching approval process, which will consider the dog, the handler and the environment in which the dog will occupy.

7.2.2 Definition

Dogs are considered instrumental in teaching activities, where their inclusion is pivotal to achieving learning outcomes identified within either a programme or module descriptor. At the same time, it is essential to ensure the welfare of the animals involved in these practices. Animal Assisted Education (AAE) is described as ‘Any educational program in which animals are integrated, directly or indirectly, as a critical component of an ongoing educational process’ (Binder, et al, 2024)

7.2.3 Guidelines & Approval Process

- a. Dogs are selected where appropriate and required, to meet learning outcomes under the direction of a sufficiently experienced member of staff. For this reason, those staff members leading teaching sessions may select specific dogs who have not undergone or passed an assessment test. In these cases, a risk assessment must be completed and shared with the dog policy panel prior to the activity occurring
- b. If you are interested in volunteering for your dog to work within teaching sessions, please contact the dog policy panel dogs@hartpury.ac.uk who will direct the enquiries to the relevant module leader for suitability ahead of assessment.
- c. Dogs are pre-assessed for suitability with an on-site assessment including the Canine Behavioural Assessment & Research questionnaire (CBARQ) and Dog Impulsivity Assessment Scale (DIAS) by a member of the assessment team comprising of a qualified behaviourist, to ensure robust and suitable selection of dogs. Further information on the assessment process can be found on p.18. A register of dogs who have met the assessment criteria will be held and must be renewed after 18 months, or sooner if required.
- d. The staff member responsible for delivering sessions must assess the behaviour of the dogs before, during and after the sessions removing the dog from the activity if they show signs of distress.
- e. Risk assessments should be created that consider the level of risk to both students and/or handler and dog, and any other stakeholders. This risk assessment must assess the environment, including where the dog will rest and the specific types of equipment used, including restraint.
- f. Dog owners or handlers must be satisfied that necessary training and knowledge of the tutor running the session is sufficient to ensure teaching sessions are effective and safe.
- g. Those leading the teaching session must be sensitive to balance the needs of students against those of the dog and ensure that the duration of the activity is

appropriately managed. Guidance from ABTC should be followed for working with dogs in teaching activities which specifically covers recommended student ratios and the ethical assessment for dogs in practical sessions.

- h. Sensible precautions must be in place to minimise the risk of disease spread, e.g. hand washing before and after each teaching session, for the handler and all people that might touch the dog.

7.2.4 Environment

- a. Clear signage should be provided when and where a dog is present in Hartpury buildings.
- b. Where an office is used for the dog to rest in during teaching activities:
 - i. permission should be sought from all 'staff' who share the room; explicit permission should be gained before the dog resides in the room.
 - ii. if a member of staff does not want to grant permission, this can confidentially be made to the Director of Animal. This will not prejudice future interactions.
 - iii. permissions should also be sought from line managers.
 - iv. where permission is granted, the number of dogs allowed per room should be determined by size of the dog(s) and the room.
 - v. if a request were made for more than one dog to share a room, it would need to be demonstrated that they can share a room peacefully.
- c. Dog owners should provide a basket or blanket for their dog to protect the carpet where the dog will support teaching or rest.
- d. Dog owners and/or module leaders are responsible for cleaning the environment after the dog, which may include hoovering carpets to remove pet hair.

7.2.5 Dogs working within teaching within commercial enterprises

Where dogs are used for teaching within a commercial enterprise or as part of an adult short course qualification, e.g. dog grooming, hydrotherapy, veterinary physiotherapy, Hartpury recognises that there will be exceptions or modifications to the requirements identified. Reasonable adjustment will be made where appropriate, to best reflect the nature of the industry activity whilst ensuring that the core principles are adhered to. The same exceptions or modifications will be applicable in the cases that Dog Professionals (e.g. trainers, behaviourists, athletes) are accompanied by their dogs, given that specific measures are taken so that to avoid any accident involving people and animals see section 4 page 5.

7.3 DOGS SUPPORTING RESEARCH

7.3.1 Introduction

In research projects which include dogs, all necessary steps as outlined in the core principles of the Dogs at Hartpury policy should be met in addition to those outlined in the Hartpury Code of Research Practice. Full Ethical Approval is required.

7.3.2 Definition

Research in this context is described as any situation where data are collected solely for the purpose of exploration; by distinction an activity might not be deemed research if it were carried out irrespective of whether data were collected or not. It is good practice however, to comply with the Hartpury Code of Research Practice if data is to be collected and potentially used in a report.

7.3.3 Requirements

- a. Any research involving dogs must be pre-approved by the Hartpury Ethics Committee.
- b. Staff and students should refer to Hartpury's Code of Research Practice.

7.4 DOGS WORKING WITHIN ANIMAL ASSISTED SERVICES (AAS)

7.4.1 Introduction

Hartpury recognises that Animal Assisted Services (AAS) can be of value for staff and student wellbeing. AAS with dogs offered by Hartpury can vary greatly in terms of what is organised, by whom, and the intended outcome. Activities may include sessions within the library including Aspire and ASC, walks and talks and socialisation activities.

7.4.2 Definition

Animal Assisted Services are “The mediated, guided or facilitator-led practices, programs and human services that incorporate specially qualified animals into therapeutic, educational, supportive and/or ameliorative processes aimed at enhancing the well-being of humans while ensuring the welfare of the animals involved in these practices.” (Binder et al, 2024). Those delivering AAS should have adequate knowledge about the behaviour, needs, health and indicators of stress in animal involved, and should not work outside of their scope of practice.

Requirement

All necessary steps, as outlined in the core principles of the Dogs at Hartpury policy should be met, to ensure that the welfare of the dog is a priority, the wellbeing and safety of the students is protected, and the activities are conducted in suitable surroundings. Dogs working within these sessions.

Sessions should follow the Society for Companion Animal Studies (SCAS) Code of Practice, and ideally use the diamond model, with the service provider responsible for the humans, and the dog handler monitoring the dog. The handler must know the dog well, be responsive to their needs (SCAS, 2019), and be able to identify signs of good and ill health or distress. There should be access to an area to de-stress before, during and after sessions. The dog should not be involved in sessions over 45 minutes long and needs a minimum of 2 hours rest between, with nine sessions a week being the limit as suggested by the SCAS (2019) codes of practice. Sessions should be terminated if animal welfare is in danger of being compromised.

There must be an ongoing monitoring of the dog(s), and removal from the activity should there be indications they are displaying any signs of decrease in positive behaviours or an increase in negative behaviours such as those shown on the ladder of distress, during the AAS to ensure their wellbeing and the safety of human participants.

For guidance, The SCAS ‘Codes of Practice’ provides further guidance on animals working within Animal Assisted Services. [animal-assisted-interventionsscass-code-of-practice-for-the-uk.pdf](#), alongside The Kennel Club ‘Bark and Read’ standards of practice, for information on dogs working within Animal Assisted Services in Education. [bark-and-read-standards-of-practice.pdf \(thekennelclub.org.uk\)](#). In addition, the standards and competencies from Animal Assisted Services International (AASI) provides exceptional recommendations when conducting such activities.

7.4.3 Application for AAS

With the exception of external organisations, which are attending as visitors and approved as such, all animals working within AAS sessions (dog walking, socialisation, library) at Hartpury, must be assessed for suitability by a member of the Dog Panel and HAI team using codes of practice as guidance.

- a. Dogs are selected where appropriate and required, to meet learning outcomes under the direction of a sufficiently experienced member of staff.
- b. If you are interested in volunteering for your dog to work within AAS sessions please contact the Dog Policy panel dogs@hartpury.ac.uk who will direct the enquiries to the relevant module leader or person of expertise in HAI for suitability ahead of assessment.
- c. Dogs must be pre-assessed for suitability with an on-site assessment including the Canine Behavioural Assessment & Research questionnaire (CBARQ) and Dog Impulsivity Assessment Scale (DIAS) by a member of the assessment team comprising of a qualified behaviourist, to ensure robust and suitable selection of dogs. A register of dogs who have met the assessment criteria will be held and must be renewed after 18 months, or sooner if required. In addition, evaluation forms used by Association of Animal-Assisted Intervention Professionals (AAIP) and Pet Partners will form part of this process.
- d. Risk assessments must be created, reviewed and held by the dog policy panel, that consider the level of risk to both students and/or handler and dog, and any other stakeholders, as well as the suitability of the dog for each specific AAS session as required. This risk assessment must assess the environment, including where the dog will rest and the specific types of equipment used, including restraint.
- e. Dog owners or handlers must be satisfied that necessary training and knowledge of the person running the session is sufficient to ensure teaching sessions are effective and safe following AAS and SCAS guidelines.
- f. Those leading the AAS session must be sensitive to balance the needs of students against those of the dog and ensure that the duration of the activity is appropriately managed. Guidance from ABTC should be followed for the use of the dogs in teaching activities which specifically covers recommended student ratios and the ethical assessment for dogs in practical sessions.
- g. Sensible precautions must be in place to minimise the risk of disease spread, e.g. hand washing before and after each teaching session, for the handler and all people that might touch the dog.

7.4.4 Pets As Therapy (PAT)

Any dog which holds a PAT qualification must also be assessed for suitability by a member of the Dog Panel. Dogs with a PAT qualification only come under that label when working within official Pets as Therapy visits or events. This qualification therefore does not permit dogs to site to be used in activities outside of this remit. More information can be found about the responsibilities of being a PAT volunteer and taking dogs to work on the PAT website <https://petsastherapy.org/information/information-for-establishments/schools>

In all other cases these dogs come under general dogs on site and follow the guidelines of this policy. Please refer to section 7 for further information. Dogs should be reassessed for suitability yearly as minimum to maintain safe conditions and welfare.

7.5 DOGS WORKING WITHIN HARTPURY OPERATIONS (WORKING DOGS)

7.5.1 Introduction

Hartpury recognises that dogs working on campus carry out tasks to support the daily operations of commercial entities run by Hartpury and where these occur, they are undertaken following industry best practice standards, for example on Home Farm. Where assessments may not be performed, the core principles still apply and the welfare of the dogs in operation is paramount.

7.5.2 Definition

Working Dogs within this category are considered those who have been selected to support practical operations on Hartpury campus, namely within Home Farm and within the department of Countryside Management & Game (CM&G) Keeping.

7.5.3 Requirements

Dogs have to be pre-approved to be working dogs, by either the Farm Manager or Head of Department for Agriculture FE.

- a. Working dogs are required to assist the daily operations under the direct control of a member of Farm or FE Agriculture staff: including tending cattle or sheep; on shoot days; dogging in; retrieval of game.
- b. Working dogs can occupy the kennels at the farm when between tasks 'on duty' with clear contact details and information present on the kennel door.
- c. Working dogs must be let out and exercised at least 3 times during the working day, additional to that:
 - Dogs must be allowed out to exercise no later than 08:00 each morning;
 - Dogs must be allowed out to exercise no earlier than 19:00 each evening.
- d. Dogs **MUST NOT** be used for hunting/coursing unless prior permission is obtained as part of a structured activity.

Dogs **MUST NOT** be exercised where they may worry livestock/quarry. It is an offence to worry livestock and if witnessed may result in the offending dog being shot on-site.

7.5.4 Guidelines for Owners/Handlers

- a. Dog food kept for working dogs while they are in kennels, must be kept in a secure, airtight, rodent proof container.
- b. Information about the dog(s) and their tasks/duties, should be made readily available to Hartpury staff if reasonably requested.
- c. The dog owner is responsible for cleaning the kennel, pre, post and during occupancy.
- d. No dog(s) should be housed in the kennels over the weekend unless prior permission has been obtained.

- e. Working dogs are not to be brought into communal areas (burger van, porta cabin, recreational areas), the Malcolm Wharton Centre, or offices. Depending on the activity, the dog may enter the farm classrooms or workshops as part of the role.
- f. Dogs may work within tasks during CM&G student's duties sessions.

8.0 ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED FOR DOGS ON SITE - SUMMARY

Dogs must be pre-assessed for suitability with an on-site assessment including the Canine Behavioural Assessment & Research questionnaire (CBARQ) and Dog Impulsivity Assessment Scale (DIAS) by a member of the assessment team comprising of a qualified behaviourist, to ensure robust and suitable selection of dogs.

Dog owners will be given copies of the CBARQ and DIAS criteria ahead of the assessment so they can train/prepare their dogs for the assessment or apply at a later stage.

The practical assessment explores how the dog handles being onsite around multiple types of distractors and scenarios. Where dogs may be working within teaching sessions, we assess the dog with and without the main primary owner/handler to monitor their behaviour. The assessment will also include how the dog reacts to types of handling, hand grooming, lead walks and unexpected sounds.

Owners may be required to submit short video(s) (lasting maximum 1 minute each) demonstrating their dogs are well socialised in both indoor and outdoor environments with children, adults and other dogs. Depending on the role of the dog, the following video categories may be requested:

- Videos with the dog interacting with different child/children (other than family member) in 2 different *indoor* environments (other than the family house).
- Videos with the dog interacting with different child/children (other than family member) in 2 different *outdoor* environments.
- Videos with the dog interacting with different adult/s (other than family member) in 2 different *indoor* environments (other than the family house).
- Videos with the dog interacting with different adult/adults (other than family member) in 2 different *outdoor* environments.
- Videos with the dog meeting or interacting with different dog/dogs (other than existing family dogs) in 2 different *indoors* environments (other than the family house).
- Videos with the dog meeting or interacting with different dog/dogs (other than existing family dogs) in 2 different *outdoor* environments.

Dogs who have passed an assessment as an Approved Dog on site must be visibly identifiable on campus by displaying a Hartpury ID tag (issued upon completion). The use of identifiable lanyards and dog ID card's may also be required by owners/handlers. Dogs present for commercial activity or in clinics, do not require an ID tag.

Approved Dogs must meet all assessment criteria relevant for their use onsite. This must be renewed after 18 months, or sooner if required. There is an expectation that owners will provide the dog policy panel with any updates to their dog's assessment outcome or suitability for the role.

The above applies to all dogs. Some categories will also have additional assessments relevant for the role of the dog and the activities it performs.

Any questions regarding the practical assessment requirements, please contact Dogs@hartpury.ac.uk.

Assistance Dogs (Section 7.1)

- All AD handlers are required to answer a set of background questions by the Dog Panel before an onsite assessment can be arranged.
- All dogs will complete an on-site assessment with a member of the Hartpury dog panel regardless of where they have been trained.

Dogs in Research (Section 7.3)

- Dogs supporting research must be pre-approved by the Hartpury Ethics Committee.
- They must also follow Hartpury's Code of Research Practice

Dogs working within Hartpury Operations -Working Dogs (Section 7.5)

- Working dogs need to be approved by the Farm Manager or Head of Department for Agriculture FE.
- They are required to assist in daily operations under direct control of a member of Farm or FE Agriculture Staff.

9.0 HARTPURY DOG POLICY FAQ:

Am I allowed to walk my dog on campus using the public footpaths?

Yes, any member of the public can use the public footpaths that cross the campus. Routes can be found on an OS map of the area.

I am an RSO and I live onsite with my dog, does my dog need an assessment?

If you are an RSO living on site, you will need approval from HR to have a dog living with you onsite and inform the Dog Panel to provide the details of the dog. A version of the dog assessment will be conducted for suitability and monitoring purposes. If working within teaching, or for AAS etc, then your dog will also need an assessment to check their suitability for these roles.

Can I bring my dog in for grooming, hydrotherapy, veterinary physiotherapy or as part of a research project, and does my dog need to be assessed?

Grooming, hydrotherapy and veterinary physiotherapy are classed as commercial activities and as such you can use these facilities without the need for your dog to be assessed. You do not need an assessment to partake in research activities unless the research project dictates it, however a risk assessment and full ethical approval is required.

I have a dog that I would like to work with assisting in wellbeing activities, does my dog need assessing?

Yes. All dogs that are working within Animal Assisted Services (AAS) will require an assessment. Dogs approved for AAS are only allowed on site to take part in approved activities.

Can I bring a dog, at any time, on to the campus?

Until Hartpury is in a position to develop facilities specifically designed to support positive dog welfare, Hartpury is not able to allow access to all dogs, at any time, to the campus. If dogs (and owners) have been approved through one of the dogs on campus categories stipulated in the Hartpury Dog Policy and continue to align with the core principles stipulated in the Hartpury Dog Policy, then through that process, we know the dog's welfare will be protected. The only exemptions apply for staff who are residents at Hartpury and have applied via HR and the Dog Policy Panel to keep their dog on site, visitors to Hartpury during events or appointments for commercial activity (e.g. dog grooming, hydrotherapy, veterinary physiotherapy) and those who use the public right of way for walking dogs. Unless dogs are formally approved, we are not able to support their regular attendance on campus.

Even when dogs have been assessed, they should only be brought on to campus if they are scheduled for a session on that day. The assessment does not grant permission to be on site daily unless scheduled for an activity.

Can I leave my dog in a vehicle when on campus?

We discourage leaving dogs in vehicles. Dogs should only be left in a vehicle as a temporary measure enacted because of extenuating circumstances. An example of this would be two dogs visiting for physiotherapy where the owner will take one dog at a time into the clinic. If dogs are left unattended in vehicles, the environmental conditions should be provided as stated in the Hartpury Dog Policy (Section 2 Core Principles, iii). The vehicle may be assessed to ensure it is suitable. Approved dogs on site will be issued with an 'approved dog' tag and must wear the tag at all times while on campus, this includes while in vehicles.

If I see a distressed dog in a vehicle on campus, what should I do?

If you are concerned about dog welfare you should talk to the owner / handler immediately. Where this isn't possible, you should contact Student Services who can identify the owner of the vehicle and notify the dog policy panel Dogs@hartpury.ac.uk

Does my approved dog need to wear an ID tag?

Dogs who have passed an assessment as an Approved Dog on site must be visibly identifiable on campus by displaying a Hartpury ID tag. The use of identifiable lanyards and dog ID card's may also be required by owners/handlers. Dogs present for educational events held by the Police, Dog charities, Dog professionals etc and commercial activities or in clinics, do not require an ID tag.

What does the assessment involve?

The owner will be required to provide owner and dog details and stipulate the reason for wanting the dog to be assessed (e.g. for teaching, AAS etc). The owner will also be required to complete a Canine Behavioural Assessment & Research questionnaire (CBARQ) and Dog Impulsivity Assessment Scale (DIAS) prior to the assessment and relevant short videos. The CBARQ is designed to provide dog owners and professionals with standardized evaluations of canine temperament and behaviour. The DIAS assesses the dog's impulsive tendencies. A behavioural assessment is then completed which helps enable the assessor to decide whether the dog is suitable. Further information can be found on p.18 of this document-section 8.0.

What happens if my dog doesn't pass the assessment?

The assessment process is straightforward but if your dog fails the assessment, we may be able to support you in working towards passing the assessment (subject to reasons why the dog did not pass e.g. if aggressive).

If my dog is permitted on campus, does it need to be insured?

For dogs which are permitted on Hartpury campus (see section 6 of the Hartpury Dog Policy), owners are responsible for ensuring that their dogs are insured which includes third party liability as part of the policy. A copy of this must be seen during the individual approval process.

10. GLOSSARY

Dangerous dog: Refers to any dog that has, without provocation:

- (a) attacked or killed an animal or person
- (b) repeatedly threatened to attack an animal or person
- (c) repeatedly chased an animal or person
- (d) any dog that has been declared dangerous by a council or a court.

Dogs identified as Specially Controlled Dogs by the Dangerous Dogs Act (1991 amended 1997, 2014) are not permitted on Hartpury premises. This includes the full or cross-bred offspring of those dog breeds listed including, but not limited to:

- (a) American Pit Bull Terriers or Pit Bull Terriers
- (b) Japanese Tosas
- (c) Dogo Argentino (Argentinean Fighting Dogs)
- (d) Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Fighting Dogs).
- (e) XL Bull Dogs

Dog owner: The person legally responsible for the control, financial interest and custody of a dog.

Dog handler: Person(s) responsible for the care of the dog during teaching sessions. This may also involve ensuring the dog is suitably prepared for the teaching session and rested/cared for during and afterwards using the SCAS diamond model. In many cases they will also be the teaching facilitator.

Natural fauna: Refers to animals' native to Hartpury Premises or surrounding environs.

Teaching facilitator: Person delivering and leading the teaching session. For example, this may be the module leader or a guest or volunteer delivering the teaching session within Hartpury.

Teaching session: The time devoted specifically to the delivery of the teaching session. Teaching sessions can include but are not limited to lectures, seminars, practical's, workshops.

Teaching delivery team: Team of people involved in the delivery of the teaching session. This will include the module leader and may include other members of the teaching team. All may be present at the teaching session.

Resident dog: A dog belonging to Hartpury staff who live on Hartpury campus.

Student: People registered on a Hartpury course, including all ages and abilities.

Hartpury Premises: Includes any land which is owned, controlled, managed or occupied by Hartpury together with any building, construction or facility of any kind (whether permanent or temporary) on that land and also includes any other building, construction or facility which is under the control, management or occupation by Hartpury.

Visitor: Person on Hartpury campus who is not paid or registered on an educational course; this may include family or friends of staff and students, participants and/or attendees to functions operated by Hartpury, or persons living within the Hartpury community.

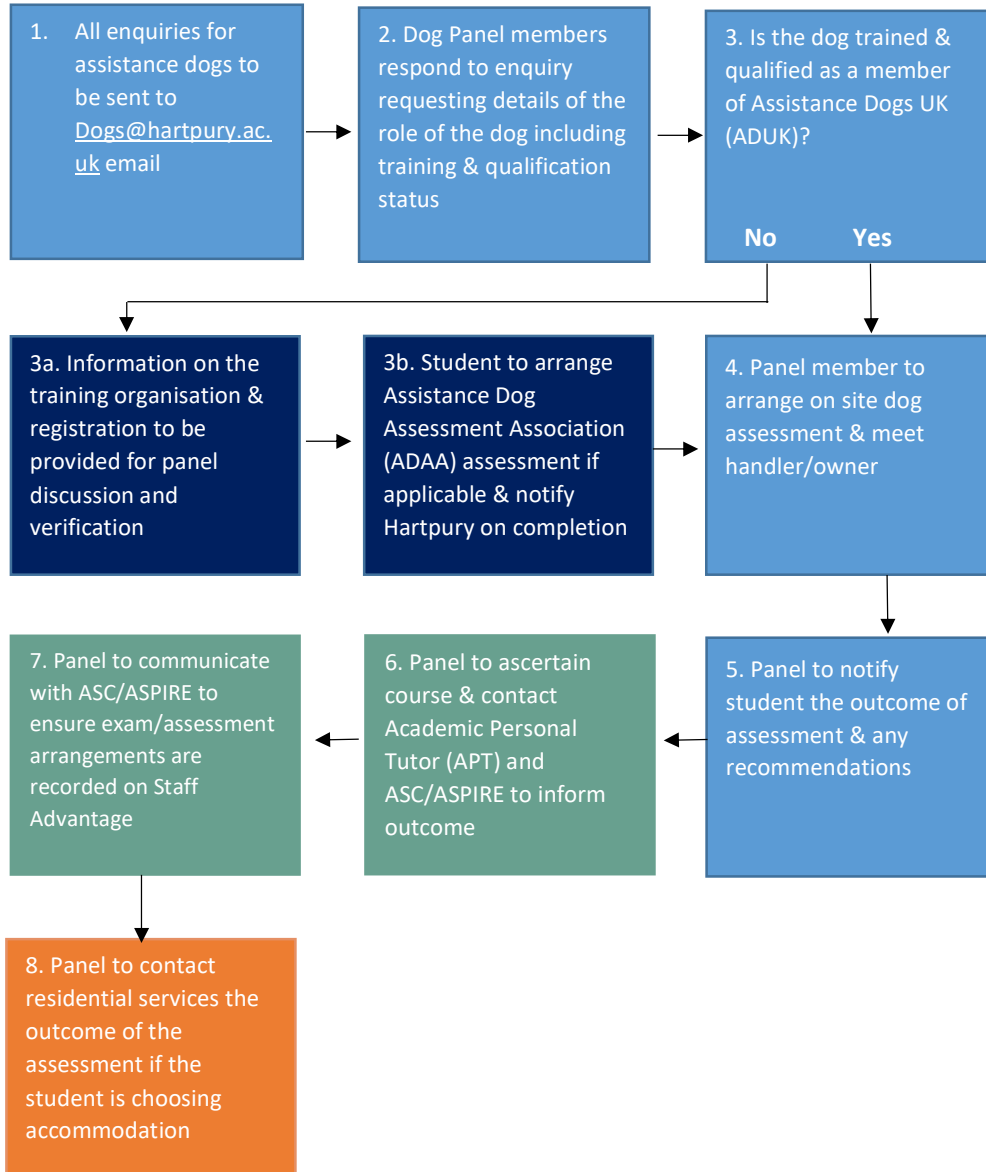
Visiting dog: Dogs that visit Hartpury.

Zoonosis: A disease transmissible from animals to people, or vice versa. Also termed zoonotic disease. Zoonoses is the plural.

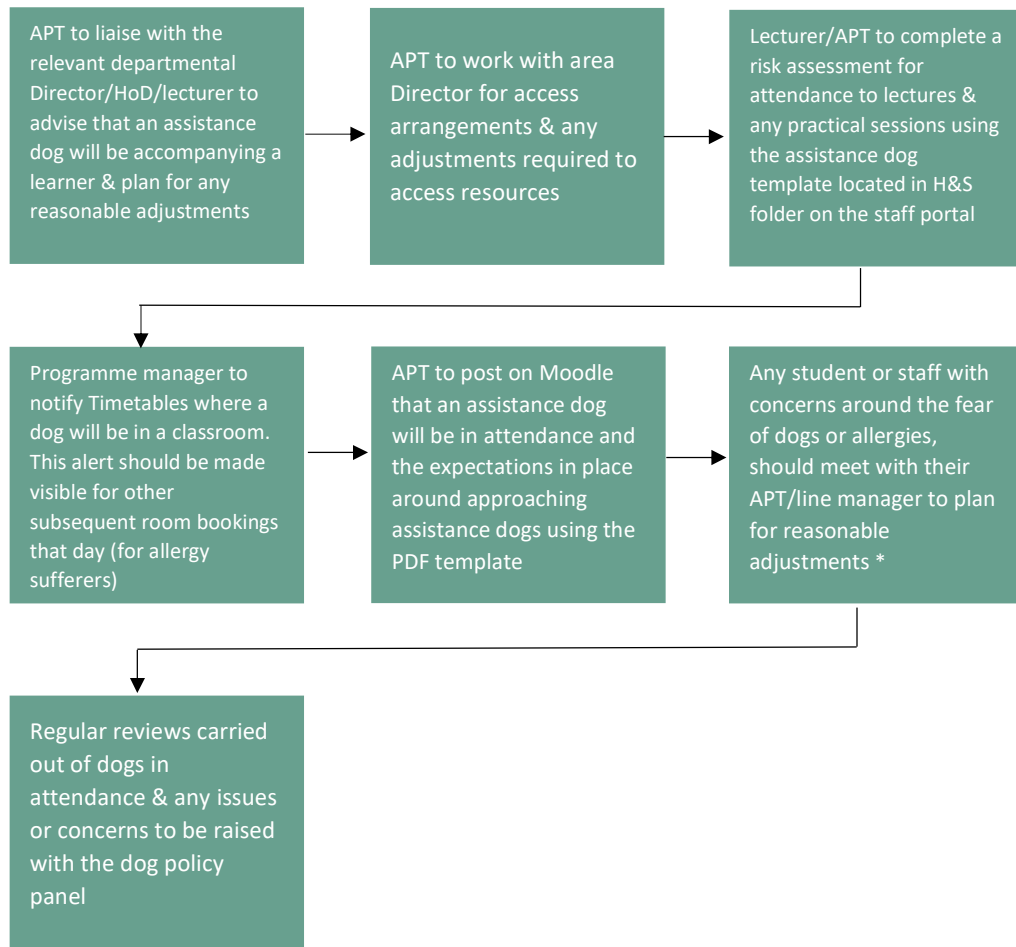
Appendix 1. Assistance Dog – Hartpury Processes

Student Requests for Assistance Dog Access to Campus – FE & HE

Assistance Dogs – Dog Policy Panel Role



Assistance Dogs – Academic Personal Tutor (APT)



*Guidance on these areas can be found in the Canine section in the H&S folder on the staff portal.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

As part of this policy, Hartpury reaffirms its commitment to the principles of freedom of speech and academic freedom, in accordance with the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023 and guidance from the Office for Students (OfS). Hartpury will take all reasonably practicable steps to secure the right to express lawful views and engage in open debate without fear of censorship or institutional discipline for staff, students, and visiting speakers. In addition, this policy prohibits the use of non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) in any situation that would prevent staff from speaking out about misconduct, harassment, or other matters of public interest.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

As with all Hartpury policies and procedures, due care has been taken to ensure that this policy is appropriate to all members of staff and students regardless of their age, disability, ethnicity, gender, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation and transgender status.

The policy will be applied fairly and consistently whilst upholding Hartpury's commitment to providing equality to all. If any employee or student feels that this or any other policy does not meet this aim, please contact the HR Department (staff) or an academic tutor (student).

Hartpury is committed towards promoting positive mental health by working towards the MINDFUL EMPLOYER Charter, holds the Student Minds University Mental Health accreditation and has signed the AoC Mental Charter. Hartpury aims to create a culture of support within the workplace where employees can talk about mental health problems without the fear of stigma or discrimination.