



CHURCHILL COLLEGE  
CAMBRIDGE CB3 0DS

## Domestic Animals Policy

<b>Policy Name</b>	Domestic Animals Policy
<b>Purpose</b>	To outline the rules around service animals and domestic animals on site.
<b>Owner</b>	Senior Tutor / HR and Governance Director
<b>Contact</b>	Senior Tutor
<b>Approved By</b>	Council
<b>Approval Date</b>	05.11.24
<b>Next Review Due</b>	2026
<b>Version and Recent Changes</b>	New policy 2024

## **1. Introduction and Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to outline Churchill College's management of domesticated animals, such as pets, service animals, or animals being brought on to site for display, welfare support or entertainment.
- 1.2 The policy has been devised to address issues arising at the time of writing, namely that:
  - estimates of staff and students with phobias or allergies to fur/feathers suggest that up to 30% of housekeeping staff and 5% of students have concerns about the presence of animals in buildings;
  - the College has Fellows who are severely allergic to different animals – particularly cats and dogs and have sensitivity to fur;
  - there have been reports of animal bites within College staff and there have been instances in departments where dogs and a cat have bitten staff members.

## **2. Recognised Service Animals**

- 2.1 Recognised service animals are described through the Disability Rights Act (Assistance Dogs) for particular conditions. Currently within the UK, this includes those with sight and sound impairment, mobility problems and seizures.
- 2.2 All owners of service animals or assistance dogs would be required to provide appropriate paperwork showing that their dog was trained and certified given the disability identified above. They would also need to demonstrate this compliance with UK law if coming from abroad. Only animals who have been trained and certified will be considered and they must be registered with Assistance Dogs International or the International Guide Dog Federation. Currently only dogs are recognised service animals in the UK.
- 2.3 Recognised service animals do not include emotional support animals.
- 2.4 Where the animal is a service animal, the individual must notify the College. Student requests to bring a service animal into College should be directed to the Senior Tutor, those of Fellows to the Vice-Master and those of non-academic staff to the HR and Governance Director

## **3. Other request for animals on site**

- 3.1 Requests for other reasons to bring an animal on site – for example if a member of staff or Fellow wishes to bring their pet or another animal into College, must satisfy various criteria. Please note that the below do not apply to those members of the public who walk their dogs on the site other than clauses (b) and (g). Dog walkers are required to remain on the perimeter path at all times, but this policy aims to address the presence of animals across the site and for potentially lengthier periods of time.
  - a. The pet must be available as a therapy animal or for teaching and learning opportunities
  - b. Dogs are to be kept on a lead at all times whilst in College grounds, outside of their designated office

- c. The owner must have public liability insurance to ensure that any harm or damage caused by their pet is underwritten and must provide proof of this insurance when seeking permission and renewing permission.
  - d. The animal may only be kept in an office which has separate access to the outside. This is to reduce the potential exposure of residents and staff with allergies and phobias to crossing paths with a pet in a confined space.
  - e. Outdoor access should be limited to a prescribed route, and alternative access routes should be publicised so that staff and students with allergies or phobias can avoid the animal should it be necessary.
  - f. Permission will be granted on a termly basis, subject to review and presentation of up-to-date insurance (as above), vaccination and de-worming history.
  - g. Dog faeces are to be removed immediately and disposed of in accordance with the Dog Fouling Act. No dog fouling bins will be present within the main College buildings though there are bins near the perimeter path which are used by members of the public for this purpose.
- 3.2 No pets will be permitted in College Fellow or Student accommodation or other areas of the College site (excluding those dog walkers using the perimeter path) unless under exceptional circumstances.