

Students Association Dog-Friendly Policy

1. Purpose

This policy outlines how dogs may be brought into the Students' Association (SA) premises (St Marys Place, St Andrews) in a safe, responsible, and considerate manner. The SA aims to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all students, staff, and visitors, while ensuring comfort and safety for those who may have allergies, fears, or cultural sensitivities.

2. Where Pet Dogs Are Permitted

- **Pet Dogs are only permitted in the Sandy's Bar & Main Bar area of the Students' Association.**
- Dogs are **not permitted** in:
 - Food service areas other than the Main Bar or Sandy's Bar
 - Rectors Cafe
 - All areas on the first floor
 - All areas on the second floor
 - 601 & StAge (unless specifically booked for "dog cuddling" events)
 - Any kitchen or food preparation space
 - Behind any bar servery, bar wash up, cellar or store
 - Toilets

Clear signage will be displayed at the building entrances to indicate permitted and restricted areas.

3. Rules for Owners

To ensure all visitors have a positive experience, dog owners must adhere to the following:

3.1 Supervision

- Dogs must remain **under the owner's control at all times**.
- Dogs must be **kept on a lead** while inside the SA building.
- Dogs must not obstruct walkways or create trip hazards.

3.2 Behaviour

- Dogs must be **well behaved, calm, and non-aggressive**.
- Excessive barking, jumping, or disruptive behaviour is not permitted.
- Dogs showing signs of distress or aggression must be removed from the premises immediately.

3.3 Cleanliness & Welfare

- Owners must ensure their dog is **clean, healthy, and recently toileted** before entering.
- Any accidents must be cleaned by the owner immediately and reported to SA staff.
- Dogs are not allowed on furniture unless specifically designated furniture is provided.
- Staff must wash hands immediately after contact with any dog.

3.4 Responsibility

- Owners are **fully responsible for their dog's behaviour**, including any damage or injury caused.
- The SA accepts **no liability** for incidents involving dogs on its premises.

4. Respect for Others

The SA is committed to creating a respectful and inclusive environment. Students, staff, and visitors should feel comfortable raising concerns with SA staff if:

- They experience fear or discomfort around a dog
- They have allergies or health needs that require accommodating
- A dog's behaviour is inappropriate

SA staff may ask an owner to relocate or remove their dog in such cases.

5. Events & Busy Periods

- During events, busy nights, or at the discretion of SA management, **dogs may be temporarily prohibited** from the Sandy's Bar & Main Bar area for safety or operational reasons.
- Updates will be made available via SA social media or posted notices.

6. Assistance Dogs

- **Assistance dogs are welcome throughout all areas** of the Students' Association in accordance with equality legislation.
- This policy **does not** restrict assistance dogs in any way.

7. Emotional Support Animals (ESAs)

- **ESAs do not have the same rights as assistance dogs.** They are not recognised under the Equality Act and therefore do not have guaranteed access to bars, pubs, or restaurants in Scotland.
- Admitting an ESA is entirely at the SA's discretion.

8. Enforcement

Failure to follow this policy may result in:

- A request to remove the dog from the premises
- Temporary or permanent withdrawal of dog access privileges for the owner

P Hulse
Building Manager
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