

Dog Kennels Policy

1. RESPONSIBILITIES

Dog Owners will:

- Take responsibility for the care and wellbeing of their dogs whilst living in the residential service.
- Comply with all aspects of this policy

Residential service managers will:

- Ensure risk assessments of dogs are reviewed and management plans are in place, for example muzzles needing to be worn.
- Only accept dogs into the service that meet the suitability criteria below.
- Ensure all aspects of this policy are implemented and complied with.

Staff will:

- Support dog owners in complying with all aspects of this policy
- Report any issues/ risks to the residential service manager

2. ASSESSMENT OF DOG SUITABILITY

All dogs will be assessed for suitability before being accepted into the service using the Dog Suitability Risk Assessment (appendix i)

Residents are not allowed to obtain a dog after they have moved in. This dog policy has been put in place to enable existing dog owners to access treatment.

Dogs will only be accepted into the service if:

- There is no history of biting
- They have been neutered. Exceptions will only be made on the recommendation of a veterinary surgeon.
- They have been treated for fleas and worms and are up-to-date with their annual booster vaccination.
- They do not display any anti-social behaviours such as constant barking.

The following dogs, which are described by the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (amended by the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014), are prohibited:

- Pit Bull Terrier (also known as American Staffordshire Terriers (Am Staffs); Irish Staffordshire Bull Terrier (ISBT); Irish Blue or Red Nose;
- Japanese Towser or Tosa;
- Dogo Argentino;
- Fila Brasileiro.

Special caution will be used for following types of dogs

Alsatian (German Shepherd);

Rottweiler;

Doberman;

Bulldog;

The dog would ideally need to come into the service to see how he/she copes and how they respond to people and the environment.

3. CARE OF DOGS WITHIN THE SERVICE

Dog owners must take responsibility for caring for their pet, for example ensuring it is well fed and exercised.

Dogs must be kept on a collar and lead whilst in the service and not be left to wander unsupervised anywhere on site. Dogs are not allowed in the main house or the flats.

If a dog shows any aggression towards people and/or other animals, it must be kept muzzled and on a lead. Owners should be aware that it is a criminal offence for any dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place.

Owners must not leave their dogs with other residents for unreasonably long periods of time.

Dog owners must ensure that their dogs do not disturb other residents, staff or guests.

If a dog is being neglected or maltreated, the management will discuss the matter with the owner and give advice. In clear cases of neglect or maltreatment, the management will report this to the RSPCA. All dog owners have a legal duty to care for their dog under the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

If a resident leaves treatment and abandons their dog, the service team reserves the right to hand the dog over to the local dog warden.

Owners must not let their animals foul inside the building or in the vicinity of the building, for example, on the pavement outside. Any accidents must be cleared up immediately by the owner. Dog waste should be bagged securely and disposed of in a normal waste bin.

Owners must not let their dogs cause any damage to the property or furnishings.

Dog owners must strictly observe the areas that are out of bounds to dogs.

Dog owners must ensure dogs are regularly treated for fleas and worms and vaccinated annually.

Any dogs showing signs of illness should see a vet for advice or treatment.

4. CARE OF STAFF AND OTHER RESIDENTS

It is necessary to consider if any staff members or other residents are afraid of dogs or allergic to dogs and to put management plans in place. For example if necessary, steps can be taken to minimise contact with any dogs by not allowing dogs in communal areas.

The following steps can be taken to ensure risks of having dogs in the service are mitigated:

- Ensuring dogs are kept on a lead and under control in communal areas
- Ensuring dogs showing signs of aggression are muzzled
- Ensuring rooms where dogs are allowed access are clearly labelled so that staff and residents are aware that a dog may be inside
- Ensuring dogs are neutered to reduce the risk of aggression and straying
- Ensuring dogs are regularly wormed and treated for fleas
- Ensuring dogs showing signs of illness are seen by a vet as soon as possible

If staff or residents are allergic to dogs, ensure rooms are regularly cleaned and ask the owner to regularly groom their dog. This will reduce the amount of fur in the service, which is often the cause of allergies. It may also be necessary to limit the areas dogs are allowed in, for example not in communal areas.

Vets

If your dog becomes unwell or requires medication such a flea or worm treatment. Then they can attend the local vets St Clements Veterinary Clinic, Tregolls Road, Truro, Cornwall TR1 1RN