



ANIMAL POLICY

2022

EAST COWES TOWN COUNCIL ANIMAL POLICY

1 INTRODUCTION

This policy sets out measures that encourage responsible ownership whilst discharging the Town Council's duty of care to its employees and users of council facilities. The EAST COWES TOWN COUNCIL is committed to a clean and safe working environment, where the needs of all are respected. Failure to comply with this policy may result in owners being banned from bringing their animals into council facilities.

We therefore reserve the right to exclude any animal when it is appropriate to do so.

2 DUTY OF CARE

- Animals will not be allowed into council buildings at times when it is felt to be inappropriate due to the activity taking place which may be affected by the presence of the animal e.g. pre-organised children's activities etc.
- All animals must be always kept under control and on a lead or in a pet carrier, by the owners whilst in council premises
- Any animal causing injury or threatening to injure anyone will be removed immediately.
- If the animal displays any sign of threatening or aggressive behaviour, this will result in the animal being banned. The animal should not show signs of anti-social behaviour e.g. repetitive barking or aggressive behaviour.
- If the animal causes injury, to anyone or other animals, this will result in the animal being banned.
- Where a user of the facility has made it known that they have a recognised allergy to animals, then no animal shall be allowed into the premises whilst that person is present.

3 HYGIENE

- Where council facilities require additional cleaning, repairing, or refurbishing as a result of animal fouling or damage, the cost will be borne by the owner.
- Owners will be required to always clean up after their pet. Animal faeces must be cleared up immediately and disposed of appropriately, owners are responsible for providing bags. Any external litter bin may be used for this purpose.

4 DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

- Owners accept all responsibility and liability for damage to people or property caused by animal (s) under their care.

5 ASSISTANCE ANIMALS

- Under the Equalities Act, assistance animals are "legally permitted to accompany its client, owner, or partner, at all times and in all places, within the United Kingdom". The EAST COWES TOWN COUNCIL is mindful of its responsibilities under the Equalities Act. Thus, assistance animals are always permitted in Council buildings.
- Owners must be able to provide information about the animal and its tasks/duties, if/when requested by staff and must ensure that their assistance animal is clearly identifiable using appropriate bibs, collars and/or harnesses when on duty so they are respected and not distracted.
- Preventing and correcting assistance animal's misbehaviour is the owner's responsibility.
- Owners must make sure that their assistance animals do not cause harm or injury to others or damage to Council property.