

Bangor University

Disability Services, Student Services



Position statement on Assistance Dogs and Therapy Animals/Emotional Support Animals

Assist carry out specific duties for a disabled person (as defined by the Act). These animals are covered under the legislation and are legally permitted to always accompany their owner, partner or handler in all places (Equality and Human Rights Commission, 2017).

The Equality Act 2010, s173, defines Assistance Dogs as:

- A dog trained to guide a blind person.
- A dog trained to assist a deaf person.
- A dog trained by a prescribed charity to assist a disabled person who has a disability that consists of epilepsy or otherwise affecting the person's mobility, manual dexterity, physical co-ordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects.
- A dog of a prescribed category which has been trained to assist a person who has a disability (other than mentioned above) of a prescribed kind.

This means dogs which have been trained and registered with one of the Member Organisations listed by Assistance Dogs International (ADI) or Assistance Dogs UK (ADUK) will meet these criteria.

Currently the following organisations are registered full members of ADUK:

- Canine Partners
- Dog A.I.D
- Dogs for Good
- Guide Dogs
- Hearing Dogs for Deaf People
- Medical Detection Dogs
- Support Dogs
- The Seeing Dogs Alliance

(Assistance Dogs UK, 2018)

There are organisations which train Assistance Dogs in addition to member organisations of the ADUK however there are concerns that some privately-trained assistance dogs are not meeting acceptable standards, with implications for the safety of the owner and general public. In addition, there is no system in place to accredit privately-trained assistance dogs Bennett O & Desai P (2016).

Whilst the legislation does not define 'a dog of prescribed category', the Equality and Human Rights Commission

accessing the learning environment. We encourage prospective students and current students to liaise with our Mental Health Advisers on alternative strategies.

Monitoring and Review of Policy

We will keep this Policy under review and amend in line with legislation and government guidance.

References

Assistance Dogs UK (2018) <http://www.assistancedogs.org.uk/faqs>

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Equality and Human Rights Commission (2017). *Assistance dogs: A guide for all businesses*.

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Kazdin, A. E. (2017). Strategies to improve the evidence base of animal assisted interventions. *Applied Developmental Science*, 21, 150–164. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.bangor.ac.uk/10.1080/10888691.2016.1191952>

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