

Dog Policy for The Hub Building and Grounds



Background (Courtesy of the Dogs Trust)

Many local authorities are introducing blanket orders which are restricting dogs from enjoying public spaces or requiring them to be kept on a lead. Such bans are ineffective and are often ignored by those causing the problem. It is then responsible owners and the wider community left with the burden that the restrictions bring.

These include, but are not limited to:

- Possible health and welfare implications for dogs not getting enough off-lead exercise.
- Dogs lacking social interactions with other dogs, leading to possible behavioural problems.
- People lacking social interactions with other people, possibly affecting social well-being.
- Responsible dog owners being given a bad name.
- Impact to local dog friendly businesses – dog walkers are one of the most common users of open spaces.

Hub Trustees

In recognition of the above, particularly ‘people social interaction’, the trustees do not wish to over-restrict dogs to the Hub building and surrounding area and have developed this policy. Hopefully it finds a balance between the freedom to bring dogs to the Hub and the protection and welfare of individuals using the hall.

The Policy

The building

- Before or on bringing a dog to the Hub, owners should ensure that permission is in place to enter the building and that any restrictions are understood.
- When the rooms are hired by individuals to run a class or event, participants are not permitted to bring dogs into those rooms (unless the dog is designated as an ‘assistance dog’). This is the default position. However -
- When there are social events, organised by any group, e.g., a coffee morning or an ‘afternoon tea’, well-behaved dogs can be admitted with their owners at the discretion of the Hub Manager (Kari Davies) or her representative (e.g. a trustee).
- Within the building, permitted dogs must be kept on its lead and its behaviour controlled.
- If a dog is believed to be causing nuisance to other users, the owner may be asked to remove the dog from the premises.
- It is possible that an event may be exempt from the ‘no dogs’ rule (e.g., an organised dog show or dog training course) but specific permission must be sought by the organiser in advance and, terms and conditions agreed to.

The surrounding area

- Whilst not encouraged, owners exercising their dogs in the grounds of the Hub (including the paved areas, are reminded that the Hub is covered by local byelaws and that owners must remove any fouling and dispose of it off-site (in specific council-provided bins or by taking home)
- Under no circumstances should dogs be left in owners’ cars in the MCC Hub car park