



Animal & Assistance Dog Policy

1. Purpose

This policy outlines the club's approach to animals on site to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of all gymnasts. It applies to gymnasts, parents, carers, volunteers, staff and visitors and is written in line with the club's commitment to providing a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment for all.

2. General Principles

The welfare, health, and safety of gymnasts is our highest priority.

The club recognises that some individuals may have allergies, phobias, sensory sensitivities or cultural beliefs relating to animals.

Exposure to animals may cause discomfort, anxiety or allergic reactions for some gym users and visitors.

The gymnastics environment contains specialist equipment and busy activity areas that may not be suitable or safe for animals.

The club operates a no pets on premises policy, except for recognised assistance dogs.

3. Pets on Site

Parents, carers, gymnasts and visitors must not bring pets onto club premises.

This includes:

- Dogs
 - Cats
 - Rabbits
 - Birds
 - Reptiles
 - Any other domestic pets
- Pets are not permitted within:
- The gymnasium
 - Reception areas



- Waiting area
- Viewing areas
- Any other club facilities

4. Assistance Dogs

Recognised assistance dogs accompanying a disabled person are welcome within club facilities.

Assistance dogs must:

- Remain under the control of their handler at all times.
- Be appropriately trained for public environments.
- Not enter training areas unless necessary and safe to do so.
- Not pose a risk to gymnasts, staff or visitors.

The club will make reasonable adjustments to support access for assistance dog users wherever possible.

5. Concerns Regarding Animals

If an animal is brought onto the premises in breach of this policy, a member of the coaching team, committee or club management may ask the owner to remove the animal from the site.

Any concerns relating to animals on site, including concerns regarding allergies, safety or welfare, should be raised with a member of the coaching team or the Welfare Officer as soon as possible.

6. Exceptional Circumstances

Any request to bring an animal onto club premises, other than a recognised assistance dog, must be discussed with the club in advance.

Approval will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Consideration may be given to:



- Health and safety requirements.
- Welfare considerations.
- Accessibility needs.
- Known allergies or sensitivities of gym users.
- The impact on other members of the club community.

All decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis with safety as the priority.

7. Commitment to Gymnast Welfare

We are committed to providing a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment for all members of our gymnastics community.

If gymnasts, parents or visitors have any concerns regarding animals on site, allergies, wellbeing or accessibility needs, they are encouraged to speak to a member of the coaching team or the Welfare Officer.

Our aim is to work together to ensure that every member feels safe, supported and able to enjoy their gymnastics experience.

8. Acknowledgement

By attending training sessions and club activities, gymnasts, parents, carers, volunteers and visitors agree to follow the requirements outlined in this policy.

This policy is designed to ensure the safe, consistent and appropriate management of animals within our gymnastics community.

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