



CHIPPENHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Improving the quality of town life

Dog Policy

Chippenham Town Council values the diversity of its visitors and staff and is committed to providing an environment which is welcoming for all.

We value dog walkers as regular park users who often help look after our open spaces by reporting any problems or damage in the park, collecting litter and help improve safety.

Help us to ensure our shared spaces are respected and safe for all by following these simple rules.

Fouling

- Dog owners, you are responsible for your dog. You must always pick up after your dog. Collect your dog's faeces in a bag and dispose of in any litter bin in the park or take it home to be disposed of.

Courtesy and control in open spaces and parks

- Respect other park users as they may not love dogs as much as you do. Some park visitors, especially children, can be scared or intimidated by dogs, especially if they bark or jump up on people.
- Be aware of where your dog is and what your dog is doing at all times. Dogs should always be supervised and never be in a park on their own.
- Don't let your dog take food from picnics or beg for food from other park users.
- Never let your dog damage trees, shrubs, flower beds or other park features. Council maintenance teams spend a lot of time and money making parks beautiful places to be.
- Keep dogs under close control. If you can't successfully recall your dog you must keep it on a lead.
- If your dog has been aggressive towards other dogs or people, always keep it on a lead, wearing a muzzle in a shared space.
- Don't let your dog run over to a dog which is being kept on a lead, they may be on a lead for a reason.
- Don't ignore warnings from other owners about their dog.
- Do check with other owners before letting your dog interact.
- Do remember that a seemingly friendly dog may lash out if approached whilst on a lead.

Assistance Dogs

The assistance dog is the responsibility of its owner who must ensure that the assistance dog:

- is kept on a lead at all times when on duty and walking around the Chippenham Town Council premises
- has its requirements in relation to toileting and feeding requirements met
- behaves in an appropriate manner at all times and does not disrupt others
- Should the dog foul inside any Chippenham Town Council buildings, the owner must report this to an appropriate member of staff to make arrangements to clean and sanitise the area.

Definition of an Assistance Dog

For the purpose of this policy, an assistance dog is one which has been specifically trained to assist disabled people and which has been qualified by one of the organisations registered as a member of Assistance Dogs (UK) or an equivalent organisation in another country. Other membership organisations include Canine Partners, Dog A.I.D, Dogs for Good, Guide Dogs, Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, Medical Detection Dogs, Support Dogs and Seeing Dogs Alliance.

Assistance dogs trained by members of Assistance Dogs (UK) or by an equivalent organisation in another country, have formal identification and are permitted to accompany their owners at all times and in all places within the United Kingdom (unless there is a genuine health and safety risk).

On the grounds of Health and Safety responsibilities to its staff, councillors and visitors, Chippenham Town Council reserves the right to refuse access for a dog that:

- Is not qualified by one of the eight membership organisations of Assistance Dogs (UK).
- Dogs from other nations, which do not meet the full membership criteria of the established international assistance dog organisations - Assistance Dogs International, Assistance Dogs Europe, International Guide Dog Federation - or other such international bodies as may from time to time be recognised.

Our venues

- Assistance dogs only are allowed in all of our buildings.
- Staff are not allowed to bring their own dogs to work unless agreed in advance with their line manager for specific National Awareness Days.

Exceptions:

- Chippenham Museum will allow well behaved dogs on-lead in their shop area only
- Stanley Park Sports Ground will only allow well behaved dogs on-lead pitchside only at all times
- John Coles Park is a dog on-lead area in the park from 1st November 2020, please observe the signs and ensure your dog is managed responsibly.