



**CHIPPENHAM
TOWN COUNCIL**
Improving the quality of town life

Dog Policy

At Chippenhams Town Council we value our service users and are committed to providing an environment which is welcoming for all.

If you have a dog, please help us to ensure our shared spaces are respected and safe for all by following these simple rules.

Fouling

It is the responsibility of the dog owner to clean up after their dog. Please collect your dog's faeces in a bag and dispose of it in any litter bin in the park or take it home to be disposed of.

Courtesy and Control in Open Spaces and Parks

- It is the responsibility of the dog owner to ensure the safety and control of their dog. This includes when the dog is on and off the lead, in all Town Council parks, open spaces and facilities. Many of the parks and open spaces are adjacent to busy roads, some with open gates or open access points to highways and residential areas. Therefore, all dog owners must consider these risks when walking dogs off lead, if there is any doubt that your dog would respond when recalled please keep your dog on a lead.
- Please 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 time and money making our parks beautiful places to be.
- If your dog has been aggressive towards other dogs or people, always keep it on a lead, wearing a muzzle in a shared space.



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- Don't let your dog run over to a dog which is being kept on a lead as 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

Assistance dogs are the responsibility of the dog owner who must ensure that the assistance dog:

- is kept on a lead at all times when on duty and walking around Chippenham Town Council premises
- has its 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 must meet the full membership criteria of the established international assistance dog organisations - Assistance Dogs



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International, Assistance Dogs Europe, International Guide Dog Federation - or other such international bodies as may be recognised.

Our Venues

- Only assistance dogs are allowed in our buildings.
- Staff are not permitted 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 allow well behaved dogs at pitch side only if they are on lead at all times.
- John Coles Park has a dog off-lead and a dog on-lead area in the park, please observe the signs and ensure your dog is managed responsibly.