Assistance Dog Policy

Policy statement

1. Lincoln's Inn is committed to ensuring that everyone is treated with dignity, respect and fairness. The Inn will not refuse a service or offer a lesser service because a disabled person has an assistance dog, as per the Equality Act 2010.

2. Other animals are not permitted in collegiate buildings, e.g. pets, emotional support animals, assistance dogs in training. Exceptions may be granted at the discretion of a member of the Executive Team.

Scope

3. This policy applies to the Inn's collegiate buildings and to services and events provided by the Inn. It does not apply to residential or commercial premises let by the Inn, where the keeping of animals is governed by the terms of the relevant lease or tenancy agreement and applicable legislation. Residents and tenants with an assistance dog may bring the dog into collegiate buildings in accordance with this policy.

Expectations

4. An assistance dog is a dog that has been highly trained to carry out a range of tasks and alerts that support a disabled person or person with a long-term medical or health condition. Assistance dogs may wear an identifying harness or jacket while working, and some assistance dog owners carry an ID book for their assistance dog, however these are not legally required.

5. Assistance dogs are expected to:

- Have a good temperament and be highly trained to behave well in public by a specialist organisation or their owner, and not to wander freely, cause damage to property, or seem aggressive or very fearful
- sit or lie quietly on the floor next to their owner, and not to exhibit disruptive or persistent barking
- be fully toilet trained, and not foul in an Inn building or otherwise constitute a hygiene risk

6. No assistance dog, no matter how highly trained or experienced, is going to be perfect 100% of the time. However, if it becomes evident that the dog is not behaving in line with the list of expected behaviours outlined above, Inn staff may raise a concern in a respectful and proportionate way. If a dog is consistently displaying these behaviours, the Inn may refuse or revoke service and require the dog to be removed from the premises.

7. Where a clear allergy risk to a specific individual is identified, reasonable steps must be taken to reduce this risk, e.g. additional cleaning or an adjusted seating arrangement. This does not permit refusing access to an assistance dog based on the possibility that other people may be allergic.

8. Disabled people or anyone accompanying them will not be expected to bear the cost of additional cleaning, staffing, repairing any minor damage or wear-and-tear, or any other measures required to accommodate an assistance dog.