

## Dogs Policy for Westonbirt, The National Arboretum

Keeping our tree collection, visitors, dogs and wildlife safe is of the upmost importance and we are committed to providing enjoyable and safe facilities for all our visitors and members.

### Where can my dog go?

- dogs are permitted to be taken off lead throughout Silk Wood (with the exception of play areas where they need to be on lead), providing they are under close control.
- dogs are permitted on leads on the Downs, all car parks, facilities, Treetop Walkway and outside catering areas.
- dogs are permitted in the shop, on leads, if they are not disruptive or excessively wet and muddy.
- well behaved dogs are also welcome in the Great Oak Hall on open days – on the occasion when an exhibition, learning activity or other event is taking place, this policy is at the discretion of the hirer, and you may be asked to wait with your dog outside.

### Where can't dogs go?

- dogs are not permitted in the Old Arboretum, Welcome Building, restaurant, offices and all designated children's play areas.
- dogs are also not permitted on any of the mobility scooters.
- dogs are unable to attend events such as Forest Live or Christmas at Westonbirt, unless it is explicitly mentioned they are welcome.

Assistance dogs are permitted in all areas of Westonbirt. Please make sure they are wearing the correct identity harness.

### Keeping control of your dog

We expect dog owners to ensure their dog does not disturb wildlife, farm animals or other people by keeping it under close control. This means you:

- will be able to recall your dog in any situation.
- not allow your dog to approach other visitors/other dogs without their consent.
- having a lead with you at all times in case you encounter wildlife, or are asked by our team to put your dog on a lead.
- being able to clearly see your dog at all times, this may mean keeping your dog to the pathways when the area is too dense to see your dog.
- picking up all dog mess and disposing of dog mess in the correct bins.



Please respect our team if they challenge you when we feel you are not keeping control of your dog appropriately. This is for the protection of the arboretum and others. We may ask you to put your dog on a lead, leave the site, ask for your FOWA membership card. In extreme cases we may have to contact the police.

Staff and volunteers have the right to be treated with dignity and respect at all times without the risk of harassment, threatening behaviour or abuse. Please find a link to our Position Statement [Forestry England Position statement - managing unacceptable behaviour \(1\).pdf](#)

There is a limit of four dogs per person that an individual may bring, provided we are satisfied that all these dogs can be kept under close control.

Anyone wishing to conduct professional dog walking services at Westonbirt should go through our permissions procedure to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all our visitors.



### **Additional dog information**

#### **What facilities are available for dogs?**

There are water bowls at the Welcome Building, restaurant and Great Oak Hall, Silk Wood and the carpark have dog poo bins. We have dog friendly treats at the mobile catering and Pantry.

#### **What do I need to be aware of when visiting**

- children – not all children are comfortable around dogs, please keep dogs under close control.
- working vehicles – We are a working arboretum with agricultural vehicles driving slowly around the site. We will stop and allow you to gain control of your dog (on a lead) and will pass only when it is safe to do.
- wildlife – We have an abundance of wildlife and conservation efforts here at the Arboretum, please do not allow your dog to chase wildlife. If your dog is chasing an animal and will not return within one call, then your dog is not being kept under close control.





Assistance dog harness – examples



Assistance Dogs UK Member  
Trained Assistance Dogs



Darwin Dogs



Hearing Dogs



Autism Dogs



Canine Partners



Dog A.I.D



Guide Dogs



Service Dogs UK



Medical Detection Dogs



Dogs For Good



Veterans With Dogs



Seeing Dog Alliance



Support Dogs

These dogs represent assistance dogs trained by internationally accredited training organisations.

Not all assistance dogs are trained by an ADUK member or by a charity.

Registered charity no: 1119538 | [www.assistancedogs.org.uk](http://www.assistancedogs.org.uk)

