

Dogs in the Cathedral Policy

We recently reviewed our policy on dogs and decided to continue our current policy of only allowing assistance dogs into Gloucester Cathedral. The reasons for this decision are listed below:

- Safety -that there are breeds of dogs owned locally, which could be dangerous or be perceived as being dangerous by visitors.
- Right of a visitor to enjoy a dog-free environment.
- Some people are scared of dogs, whatever their shape or size. There are people who have had bad experiences with dogs as children and remain frightened of them into adulthood and would not wish to visit if they knew they might encounter a dog. Even a well-behaved dog can be perceived as a threat.
- The elderly and small children are at risk of being knocked over by even a friendly and harmless dog which is keen to make a new friend. Not all dog-owners are responsible; some dog-owners assume others are just as keen to spend time with their dog as they are - and don't restrain their dog accordingly.
- Noise - one dog may be silent, but if there are two or more dogs in a building, they may bark at one another, either from excitement or aggression.
- Norms - most public buildings in this country have a no-dog policy (for example, it's hard to imagine a dog being allowed into a Museum or Library).
- Cleanliness -although most dog owners would not let their pet foul in the Cathedral or garth, others may be less conscientious. Many owners allow their dogs to foul in our grounds without cleaning up after them and using the bins provided.

Thank you for your understanding.

Canon Celia Thomson, April 2018