

Assistance Dog Policy

Here at The BIG Sheep we aim to make your day out as enjoyable and accessible as possible. If you are planning on bringing an assistance dog with you, we need to ensure that the health and welfare of our animals and that of the assistance dog is not compromised. Please read the information below before you arrive to ensure you have the most up-to-date information and to avoid potential disappointment on the day.

The information below only applies to working assistance dogs and not to emotional support animals. Emotional support animals do not currently have legal recognition in the way that assistance dogs do in the UK. We understand the valuable role that such animals can play in providing support to their owners. However, **we do not currently allow emotional support animals access to our site.**

Whilst wearing a vest or harness is not a legal requirement it is recommended on our site due to the amount of people and children that are likely to want to pet or and potentially distract a dog from its duties if it is not visibly identifiable as an assistance dog.

PRE-ARRIVAL

The following documents would need to be emailed to our Reception team and approved at least 1 week in advance of your visit:

- **Verification of your need for an Assistance Dog** – we will need to see your Assistance Dog's (UK) ID and that the dog is wearing an assistance jacket or lead/harness.
- **If your dog is owner trained** – We will need to see a Blue Badge, PIP letter or a letter from a recognised health professional on their organisations headed paper.
- **Confirmation of the Assistance Dog's vaccinations** – your dog must be up to date with all inoculations for standard canine diseases. These inoculations should not have been given to the dog in the 2 weeks before your visit. Your dog must also have received anthelmintic (worming) treatment in the last six months. You will need to provide assurance that your dog has not shown any signs of illness (including vomiting and diarrhoea) in the last 24 hours.
- **Confirmation of residency for more than 6 months OR rabies vaccination** – your Assistance Dog must have a resident in the UK for at least 6 months or have received an annual vaccination against rabies.

Once we have seen the confirmation outlined above, you will then be asked to complete and sign an Assistance Dog declaration form that sets out the requirements for any Assistance Dog admitted on site.

WHILST ON SITE

We want all our guests (your dog included!) to have the best experience with us whilst visiting The BIG Sheep.

- Your dog must be kept on a short lead at all times. If your dog starts barking/growling or causing distress to any animals please remove them from the area immediately to an area without animals until they stop barking/growling.
- Your dog is not allowed in the Animal Barn or our Animal Shows.
- You should encourage your dog to go to the toilet before entering the site. If your dog does go to the toilet whilst on park, please clear away the faeces and dispose of in our dog bin in the main car park.
- Dogs are not permitted on our rides or attractions. They must be left with a responsible adult whilst you are riding (we cannot look after your dog for you, nor can they be left unattended).
- Dogs are permitted in our event field, pathways, picnic areas, restaurant and indoor play.
- Our overflow car park field is available to exercise your dog.



Assistance Dog declaration form

Here at The BIG Sheep we welcome working assistance dogs that are under the full control of their accompanying owner. This declaration allows us to maintain the health and welfare of our animals as well as those of your assistance dog. We reserve the right to refuse entry to the site if this declaration is not signed.

Visitor name:.....

Address:.....

Postcode:..... **Email address:**.....

Telephone number:..... **Mobile number:**.....

Type and name of assistance dog:.....

Does the dog receive a raw food diet? YES / NO (studies suggest that dogs fed on a raw food diet have a higher likelihood of carrying some types of harmful bacteria. Circling YES does not affect your visit with us. It just provides us with useful information in the event of potential future health issues with our animals).

As the owner of the above-named assistance dog, I can confirm that they:

- Are up to date with all inoculations for standard canine diseases (including canine distemper and parvovirus) and they have not received an inoculation in the 2 weeks prior to this visit.
- Have received anthelmintic (worming) treatment in the last 6 months.
- Have shown no signs of disease (including vomiting or diarrhoea) in the last 24 hours.
- Have been resident in the UK for more than 6 months or have received an annual vaccination against rabies.

Whilst visiting The BIG Sheep, I can confirm that I, the owner of the assistance dog:

- Will keep my dog on a short lead at all times. If my dog starts growling/barking or causing distress to any of our animals or guests, I will remove them from that area immediately and wait in an area away from animals or other guests until the dog stops growling/barking.
- Ensure that faeces are cleared up if my dog fouls anywhere. These faeces will be disposed of outside of the site.
- Remove my dog from an area if asked by our Farm team.
- Understand that I must not feed my dog whilst on The BIG Sheep grounds.

I agree to adhere to the Assistance Dogs Policy for The BIG Sheep

Visitors signature:.....

Visitors printed name:.....

Date of visit:.....



