



DURHAM  
CATHEDRAL

October 2024

# Durham Cathedral Dog Policy





## Aim of Policy

The aim of this policy is to set out the criteria of allowing dogs into Durham Cathedral and surrounding precincts. It will set out the spaces that dogs will be allowed into the cathedral.

## Relationship of this policy to the cathedral's purpose, value and mission

### *The Cathedral's purpose:*

Durham Cathedral is a Christian church of the Anglican Communion, the Shrine of Saint Cuthbert, the Seat of the Bishop of Durham and a focus of pilgrimage and spirituality in North East England. We inhabit a treasured sacred space set in the natural and human landscape of the World Heritage Site.

Our purpose is to worship God, share the gospel of Jesus Christ, welcome all who come, celebrate and pass on our rich Christian heritage and discover our place in God's creation.

### *The Cathedral's values:*

Spirituality, Respect, Justice, Collaboration, Sustainability, Welcome and Aspiration.

### *The Cathedral's mission:*

Inspired by our saints, Cuthbert and Bede, the mission of Durham Cathedral is to offer everyone the opportunity to encounter God and know God's love in Jesus Christ.

This policy has been written to reflect that allowing dogs into the cathedral is aligned with our core purpose, particularly around pilgrimage and our value of Welcome.

## Definitions

This policy is in relation to dogs only, and does not cover any other animal. No other animals are permitted in the cathedral.

When referring to the cathedral in this policy, it covers Durham Cathedral, its precincts and grounds.

This policy does not exempt the cathedral from complying with the UK Equalities Act of 2010 in relation to Assistance Dogs.





## Policy

From April 2025, dogs are allowed inside the cathedral, cloisters, shop, Undercroft foyer.

Dogs must be kept on a short lead at all times. Dogs are allowed in all areas of the cathedral, but in the following areas dogs are prohibited.

- The Shrine of St Cuthbert (Feretory)
- The Library and Durham Cathedral Museum
- The Central Tower
- The Learning Centre
- The Undercroft Restaurant
- Priors Hall

Dogs are not permitted to accompany visitors on the following activities;

- Tours of the cathedral
- Tower climbs
- Ticketed events

Dogs are permitted to accompany worshippers to services. If a dog disrupts a service, their owner will be asked to remove their dog from the service.

