GREAT GLEN OADBY & WIGSTON u3a
Pet Dogs at Meetings and Events Policy

This policy has been prepared to address the question sometimes asked by members: may I bring my dog(s) with me? The policy provides guidance where the dog(s) in question are pet dogs and the meeting or event is organised by Great Glen Oadby & Wigston (GGOW) u3a. (Members with specially trained assistance dogs generally have legal rights to be accompanied by them.) The policy of GGOW u3a, whether consent should be given or withheld by the Group Leader or Event Organiser, is as follows.

The requirements and wishes of the landlord, if any, must be obtained and are paramount. This condition applies to indoor premises, such as meeting venues and eating / refreshment places, and to land through or to which walks and excursions are planned.

It must be made clear in advance to the dog owner that the attendance of pet dogs is entirely at the owner's risk and is not covered by u3a insurance. The dog(s) concerned must be obedient and well-behaved. The judgment whether a dog is in fact well-behaved rests with the Group Leader or Event Organiser, who has the right to withhold consent, possibly without the refund of any prepayment where such prepayment cannot be recovered by GGOW u3a.

The Group Leader or Event Organiser should assess the potential risks to the safety of members resulting from the presence of one or more pet dogs. If such risks are considered significant consent must be withheld.

The assessment of the risks of including pet dogs in walks and similar activities should take into account the terrain, the presence of farm animals – including cattle and dogs – along the route, expected conditions underfoot, obstacles and traffic. The likely presence of cattle and/or farm dogs will be reason to withhold consent.

The attendance of a pet dog must not result in any other member or prospective member feeling excluded from membership of a Group or Excursion. All active members of any group affected by a request from a member to be accompanied by a pet dog must be consulted privately. If any member objects, the Group Leader or Event Organiser must advise the dog-owning member that consent has been withheld. Prospective members of any group affected must similarly be consulted prior to their attendance, and any objection will lead to suspension or termination of consent. If consultation is for any reason impractical within the timescale available, consent must be withheld.

GGOW u3a concludes that it will be on rare occasions only that consent may be given. The Group Leader or Event Organiser will need to be convinced that the pleasure gained by the other members, without exception, significantly outweighs the trivial risks identified. In cases of doubt, Group Leaders or Event Organisers should refer to the Groups Coordinator or to another member of the Committee.

POLICY ADOPTED 3 March 2026.

DUE FOR REVIEW March 2028

SIGNED