



## Páirc Náisiúnta Ghleann Bheatha Glenveagh National Park

### **Glenveagh National Park Dog Policy**

This policy sets out the conditions under which dogs may be permitted entry to Glenveagh National Park, associated park buildings and/or transport modes, including buses.

This policy does not apply to animals used in the course of duty by park staff, Gardaí or other members of the emergency services.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service and Glenveagh National Park are committed to meeting our obligations under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005, to protect the health and safety of all members of staff while attending their workplace.

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### **Dog Owners & their dogs are welcome in Glenveagh National Park subject to compliance with the following conditions:**

1. Owners/handlers must comply with all enacted legislation including breed and muzzle requirements for dogs in their care while in Glenveagh National park.
2. Dogs must be on a secure lead at all times.
3. Maximum lead length permitted is 1.5m.
4. Dogs must be kept under full control and direct supervision at all times.
5. Dogs that do not comply with conditions 1-3 and/or display aggressive behaviour are not welcome and may be requested to leave the park by park staff.
6. Failure to comply with park staff requests in this regard is a trespass offence in the first instance and may also constitute an offence under the Wildlife Act 1976, as amended and or the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended (S.I. No. 477/2011).
7. On occasion dogs may be temporarily excluded from the designated dog free areas (Walled Garden and An Foscadh Mór) indicated by the accompanying maps.
8. Dogs are not permitted in any building in the park or on the park bus service, unless they meet the criteria set out in Point 8 below.
9. A Service Dog is defined under Irish law as a highly trained dog that is specifically trained to assist a person with a disability. For a dog to be recognised as a Service Dog, it must be fully trained and registered with one of the following, or a U.K. or other international equivalent:
  - Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind
  - Dogs for the Disabled
  - Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland

- International Guide Dog Federation

All trained and registered Service Dogs are welcome to access Glenveagh National Park buildings and buses in the company of their registered owner.

Service Dog owners are expected to be able to provide sufficient written documentary evidence that their dogs meet the above criteria.

In instances where the animal is not immediately identifiable as a service dog, Park staff members may seek clarification that the animal is a trained Service Dog, before admittance to the Park buildings and or bus is allowed.

**Note on Emotional Support Animals.**

Emotional Support Animals, including dogs, not accredited to one of the above organisations, are not legally recognised under Irish Law. As a result, they are currently not permitted to enter any Park buildings or buses.

Staff members at all park buildings and buses may ask for evidence that the animal is a trained and certified service animal before they are permitted to enter any park buildings or buses.

**Note on dogs that are unable to walk the return leg from the castle to the main car park.**

Dog owners and visitors to the park are fully responsible for undertaking due planning and diligence with regard to the length of walk they and their pet are capable of undertaking in any given weather conditions.

Within this context, the park recognises that, on occasion, dog owners may be caught unprepared for the length of return trip from the castle to the main car park. In such instances, dogs are not allowed on the bus unless they meet the criteria as set out in conditions 8 above. However, the park can, by request at the reception desk, make available a pedestrian animal buggy to aid transportation of the pet, in order to allow the visitor to walk the return leg.