Visitors with Pets have been considered by VisitScotland in our development of the Pets Welcome Scheme which recognises the special efforts made by operators to provide for them, and to help them choose suitable accommodation. Visitors seeing the logo will give them confidence that they are booking quality accommodation that meets their particular need. Predominantly the Pets Welcome will be focused on dogs, as this is the major market, although some visitors travel with other pets, in this instance they will be asked to contact the owner directly with regards to suitability for their pet.

Recent research shows that the pets market is large, with 46% of all UK households having one pet or more and 24% of all households have a dog.

PETS WELCOME SCHEME

This is a growing market and some businesses really go the extra mile to provide the facilities and services that make pets and their owners feel at home. Satisfied owners will return year on year if facilities can be guaranteed to meet both the expectations of the owners and their pets.

Those wishing to apply for the Pets Welcome scheme should display an understanding of the pets they welcome, their owners, and their needs, and a genuine interest in making them feel at home.

To become a member you must provide the following and your VisitScotland Quality and Tourism Advisor will verify that the required facilities exist when they visit, or for non-Quality Assured participants a representative from VisitScotland may contact you to discuss your provision.

WEBSITE INFORMATION FOR ALL BUSINESSES

1. Website needs to be clear about number, and size and type of pet accepted (can be restricted to dogs only).
2. Website needs to detail any additional charges for pets.
3. Website needs to detail any restrictions or rules for pets.
4. Website needs to detail any damage or breakage policy.

PETS WELCOME SCHEME FOR SERVICED ACCOMMODATION

1. Water and food bowls available.
2. Suitable disposal equipment (poop scoop bags) and bins to be provided.
3. Details of suggested local dog walks.
4. A working torch for walking dogs in the dark.
5. Details and directions to local pet shop and vet.
6. Food preparation area available, such as access to kitchen or utility room.
7. Dogs allowed in bedrooms on dog beds. If restrictions apply this needs to be detailed in advance.

8. Suitable exercise area nearby.
9. Dog cleaning area is required for muddy dogs, hose and bucket to be provided.
10. Suitable clean towels available for use on dogs, (old towels are quite acceptable), for wet and muddy paws to protect carpets and interiors.
11. Display of Scottish Outdoor Access Code, available from www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

PETS WELCOME SCHEME FOR VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

1. Shaded car park areas, if parking available.
2. Water and water bowl available.
3. Hooks for tethering dogs outside buildings, or kennel area provided for longer periods.
4. Designated exercise area available.
5. Suitable poop disposal bin available.
6. Display of Scottish Outdoor Access Code, available from www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

PETS WELCOME SCHEME FOR SELF CATERING

1. Water bowls available.
2. Suitable disposal equipment (poop scoop bags) and bins to be provided.
3. Details of suggested local dogs walks.
4. Details and direction to local pet shop and vet.
5. Pointers to suitable exercise area nearby.
6. Details of local pubs and restaurants where pets are accepted
7. Display of Scottish Access Code, available from www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

PETS WELCOME SCHEME FOR CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITES

1. Hooks placed outside all facilities blocks to secure dogs with water bowls available.
2. Suitable disposal equipment (poop scoop bags) and bins to be provided.
3. Displayed details of local suitable dog walks and directions.
4. Displayed details and directions of the local vet and local pet shop.
5. A designated exercise area or dog walk.
6. Where not provided on park, details of local pubs and restaurants where pets are accepted.
7. Display of Scottish Outdoor Access Code, available from www.outdooraccess-scotland.com