



Pets on Parish Grounds Policy

We acknowledge that pets play an important role in our community and the positive impact they have on individuals lives. We also have a responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of parishioners when attending church.

All are welcome at St. John's Toorak, animal companions included. We do ask, however, that if you wish to bring your pet into the church or hall that they are kept appropriately restrained at all times. This must be on a short (non-extendable) lead or in an enclosed compartment (e.g. pet carrier).

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all members of St. John's community (parishioners, visitors, clergy and staff), by providing guidelines for ensuring pets brought onto parish premises do not pose a health, safety or hygiene risk.

SCOPE:

These guidelines apply to both St. John's church and Buxton Hall and are to be observed by any who wish to bring their pets onto the premises.

PROCEDURE:

Any pets brought onto parish grounds must be appropriately restrained at all times. This must be on either a short (non-extendable) lead or in an enclosed compartment. Owners of pets on parish grounds must comply with all relevant council regulations and other statutory provisions such as the Victorian Domestic Animals Act (1994).



ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
TOORAK
EST. 1859

We ask that you please review the following before bringing your pet to church:

- ✦ Be mindful that not all parishioners, clergy, staff or visitors will be familiar or comfortable interacting with your pet.
- ✦ Please assess the temperament and demeanour of your pet before bringing them on parish grounds and do not bring them into the church or hall if they are not suited to the environment.
- ✦ You are responsible for any injury or harm caused to people and/ or damage to property resulting from your pets presence.
- ✦ You are also responsible for cleaning-up and disposal of any excrement left by your pet on parish grounds.

Hygiene of all pets must be maintained at all times. Hygiene will be maintained by the owner through:

- ✦ Appropriate cleaning of any excrement and removing from parish grounds for disposal.
- ✦ Keeping pets out of food preparation and service areas.
- ✦ Only healthy pets are allowed on parish grounds (to prevent cross-infection to other pets etc.)
- ✦ Keeping pets from licking or other means of transfer of any infection.

ASSISTING/ GUIDE DOGS:

All are welcome at St. John's Toorak, including those that require assistance from 'service dogs'. St. John's will ensure that service dogs are accommodated with suitable shelter and nourishment whilst on site.

REFERENCES:

- ✦ Victorian Government - Domestic Animals Act 1994
www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/domestic-animals-act-1994/086
- ✦ Dogs Victoria
www.dogsvictoria.org.au/resources/government-legislation/
- ✦ Animal Welfare Victoria
agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/animal-welfare-victoria