

Canine Allies CIC

Assistance Dogs

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Hot Weather Policy

This policy aims to outline the guidelines for our clients and how we expect handlers to manage their dogs in the heat.

Breed Specific Information

At Canine Allies, we expect all assistance dogs to be in good health and a suitable weight. We do understand that sometimes dogs may put on extra weight, and the handler must make a decision as to whether this will impact their ability to work in the heat.

Flat faced - or brachycephalic breeds - will not cope as well in the heat as a dog with a longer nose - mesocephalic or dolichocephalic breeds will cope slightly better, as they are able to regulate their temperature better.

For this reason, we have outlined these specific working temperatures, based on what we feel is safe.

Brachycephalic breeds should not work in temperatures above 21°C

Mesocephalic or dolichocephalic breeds should not work in temperatures above 28°C

When considering your own assistance dog, it is imperative to assess the breed's physiological adaptations to varying climatic conditions.

Certain breeds, such as Malamutes, Huskies, and Newfoundlands, possess inherent predispositions towards colder environments, rendering them susceptible to thermal stress in elevated temperatures.

Furthermore, dogs with double-layered coats, such as retrievers, spaniels, and some mix breeds exhibit heightened vulnerability to heat-related discomfort.

Working Attire

In the event that a dog needs to work in temperatures above 20°C we strongly recommend using a cooling vest or bandana, and not wearing a vest.

A lead slip, or Canine Allies bandana may be used as a replacement for a vest. To prevent access issues, it is advised that you bring your Canine Allies ID.

You may also wish to put boots on your dog, to allow for transit over hot surfaces, but please be mindful of the restriction on pads, as this can cause temperature dysregulation.

Cancellation of in person training

In our commitment to ensuring the well-being of both the dogs and our trainers, we prioritise the safety and suitability of all in-person training sessions.

While we understand the importance of consistent scheduling and will always endeavor to provide ample advance notification should a cancellation become necessary, we must acknowledge that certain environmental conditions, specifically elevated temperatures, can pose significant risks.

Therefore, we retain the right to cancel scheduled in-person training appointments with immediate effect if, in our professional judgment, prevailing warm weather conditions render the session unsafe or potentially detrimental to the health and comfort of the animals involved.

In such circumstances, where a cancellation is necessitated by unforeseen or rapidly changing weather conditions, we will, **without exception**, reschedule the appointment at no additional cost to the client.

Heat Stroke

Heat stroke in dogs is a medical emergency. If you suspect that your dog is experiencing heat stroke, please call your veterinary practice immediately.

Heatstroke is an extremely dangerous condition. It can cause seizures, organ failure, internal bleeding, coma and death.