

Disabled Afloat Riverboats Trust



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DART POLICY WITH REGARD TO ASSISTANCE DOGS ON BOATING HOLIDAYS

The DART Trustees have given much thought to this matter and have come to the conclusion that the fairest policy for all concerned is not to allow guide or companion dogs on DART trips where the group are made up of people who are strangers to each other. If passengers feel that they must have their dogs with them then the whole boat hire option detailed below is available..

The reasons for the policy with regard to non-exclusive trips are as follows.

DART provides group holidays for members of the public who book onto trips as individuals. This means that we do not know in advance what allergies they may come with or, less importantly, their like or dislike of dogs or other animals.

The holidays take place on canals and rivers using wide beam boats adapted for people with disabilities. Much of the time is spent cruising with pauses for other activities such as locking, shopping and other off boat activities. It is our opinion that it is not an ideal environment for an assistance dog mainly because of the lack of space for moving around. A large dog also needs almost as much space for sleeping as a human being. It is also an environment in which a dog (particularly a guide dog) cannot be effectively utilised. For those off-boat activities where a guide dog might be of use DART offer the 'reasonable adjustment' of the arm of a member of the crew for guidance.

DART also offer the use of whole boats for groups (or individuals) who are unable to mix with others. These are typically used by groups containing people with behavioural problems or those needing a high level of personal care. Assistance dogs would be welcome in such circumstances as are friends and family irrespective of their level of disability.

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