



Dog Policy

Monkey World does not permit entry to dogs, including guide dogs, assistance dogs, or any other animals or pets.

We appreciate that other wildlife parks and some zoos may allow assistance dogs, but it is important to note that the majority of these venues do not permit assistance dogs near their primate enclosures due to the distress they cause. As Monkey World is exclusively home to primates, restricting dogs from specific areas is not possible. You will find this same policy in place at other facilities solely for primates.

Whilst we have previously permitted medical assistance dogs, recent challenges in verifying legitimate assistance dogs and accusations surrounding fairness have created further complications. Unfortunately, some instances have led to distress for both our staff, primates and visitors when assistance dogs had to be removed from the park.

Why Are Dogs and Pets Not Allowed?

Monkey World is a rescue sanctuary dedicated to the rescue, care and rehabilitation of primates who have suffered significant abuse, neglect and/or trauma. Many of our rescued monkeys and apes have heightened and severe stress responses, particularly to dogs, which they instinctively view as predators.

Even well-trained dogs can cause:

- Severe distress to our primates, including triggering anxiety and alarm behaviour.
- Medical risk, especially to highly-strung species like woolly monkeys, which are critically endangered and vulnerable to stress-induced complications during pregnancy, including miscarriage or stillbirth. Monkey World is home to the world's only healthy breeding captive community of woolly monkeys.
- Aggressive and dangerous behaviour among our 51 chimpanzees. Chimpanzees are territorial and react aggressively to the presence of dogs, which can lead to violent outbursts, injuries within groups, and serious safety risks for both animals and staff.

After a thorough review of our responsibilities under the Equality Act, we have concluded that our no-dogs policy is lawful and necessary. The law allows businesses to apply certain policies when they are a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim. In our case, this aim is the health, safety, and welfare of both our primates and staff, and upholding the core mission of Monkey World as a calm, safe, and secure sanctuary.

Additional Assistance

We understand this policy may present challenges for some visitors. If you have a disability and need further assistance in order to visit, please get in touch with our team in advance.

Email: admin@monkeyworld.org

We will do everything we reasonably can to support your visit.