



Terms & Conditions for Attendees

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Code of Conduct & Behaviour Guidance

Pawsome is first and foremost a furry Convention, which embraces the various LGBTQIA+ communities which make up much of our wider anthropomorphic universe. Furry is not a fashion or a trend, it is a part of an expression of your inner animal and Pawsome is designed to create the first safe space in the UK for a furry convention to allow you to be the inner animal you want to be, dress as, act as or admire, regardless of costume, species, material or gender.

The purpose of the Convention is to allow you to show us what being a furry means to you. As such, we have embraced a more liberal approach to the costume code of conduct and imported over from US furry conventions, a progressive approach to what costumes and outfits (and what materials) are permitted.

Our costume & outfit dress code is more relaxed than other UK conventions but to make our events a safe and welcoming place for all attendees, we must have some rules. Your attendance and continued attendance at Pawsome events is conditional on your acceptance of the rules and restrictions contained in this document.

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1. Attendee Conduct

- a) You should be civil, kind and respectful to each other and to the Venue at all times. This includes, but is not limited to, Attendees & Crew / Staff.
- b) You must be at least 18 years old to attend the Convention and proof of ID will be required upon registration, which must match the membership data we hold on file for you.
- c) Only those who hold membership of Pawsome are permitted to apply for and to attend events & make purchases.
- d) You should follow instructions given by the Hotel and Venue management, Pawsome event Staff, and any volunteers visibly shown as Crew on duty.
- e) Pawsome takes a zero-tolerance policy to racism, transphobia, biphobia, body-shaming and other forms of discrimination at our events.
- f) Symbols of movements or organisations that support or encourage hateful behaviour are not allowed to be worn at the Convention in any form.
- g) Attendees should always obtain consent from the other party before engaging in any physical contact. If in doubt, always ask first!
- h) Pawsome Staff and Hotel/Venue Staff reserve the right to refuse entry or require you to leave the premises if your attendance has been revoked due to a breach of these rules or the Venue has requested this. Under such circumstances, no Attendee or accommodation fee paid will be refunded.
- i) Attendees are liable for any damage to the Venue/Hotel/Convention property, we reserve the right to ask you to either repair or replace such items.
- j) Any Attendee is entitled to enter any of the event spaces (subject to capacity), but please be respectful of these events as they are designed to be safe spaces for those communities and ask permission before taking photos in these rooms or follow the direction on photos by those running any events.
- k) You are allowed to act in light-hearted general animalistic role play in public areas, such as those allowed at other UK furry conventions. Any play must not become sexual or cause a nuisance to other Attendees or the Venue and you may be asked to stop.

- l)** The wearing of leashes, collars, harnesses are allowed in the venue at all times, and gentle tugging and pulling of leashes/chains will be permitted but no Attendee is to be 'lead' around any public areas in the Venue. No force is to be used when holding any leash, harness, collar or other similar accessory in public areas in the Venue.

- m)** Any fursuit, costume, outfit or accessory that is lockable and cannot be unlocked by the wearer accepts that in the case of an issue, emergency or if a staff member or steward believes there is a welfare concern, force may be used to remove the outfit and Pawsome accepts no responsibility for damages to any costume, outfit or accessory.

Any event or panel may have more relaxed rules as they will have obtained permission from Pawsome Staff and the event and panel leaders will advise either at the start of the event or panel, or it will be detailed in the convention schedule.

2. Alcohol and Drugs

- a) You are expected to **drink responsibly**.
- b) Persons who are **intoxicated** to the point of impairment may be escorted to their rooms. If this happens on more than one occasion, other sanctions may be imposed.
- c) Pawsome has a zero-tolerance policy on the use or selling of illegal drugs. Any attendee found to be using, in possession of, or dealing illegal substances, will have their registration immediately revoked and the attendee removed from the venue. All infringements will be reported to the police.

3. Registration

- a) Pawsome is a **private event**. Only registered Attendees with a valid Convention badge and **valid membership number** may enter the Convention Venue.
- b) Your **Convention badge** must be visible at all times whilst at the Convention Venue, including suiting.
- c) The use of a Convention badge in a **different name or number** to yours is not allowed.
- d) **Defacing or altering** your Convention badge is not allowed.
- e) **Staying overnight** in the Convention Venue without a valid Hotel booking is not allowed.

4. Stewards

To keep everybody safe, '**Stewards**' will be visible throughout the Convention. If you are unsure of something, want to report something or discuss whether something is allowed or not, please ask.

5. Clothing and Outfit Guidance

General Notes:

Any costume changing must be done in your room or other suitable private changing location if provide, such as the headless lounge in dedicated changing pods, etc.

Any items of costume **left unattended** in publicly accessible areas or lounges are left at the owners risk and Pawsome accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage.

Non-residential convention attendees are welcome to leave a bag with their clothes with ConOps for the day after they have changed into their outfits or costumes. These bags must be collected before you leave the venue at the end of that day. Please head to the ConOps desk next to reception with your convention badge and they will bag it up for you and secure the bag and store in a secure room.

Style & General Summary:

Costumes and outfits of any material (except real fur) are acceptable at Pawsome. Traditional fursuits, latex, leather, spandex and PVC are all welcome - as are ordinary street clothes, of course.

However, during the day we ask that only **masks which reflect the animalistic theme of the convention are worn.** That means fursuit heads, pup hoods, pony heads, pig snouts, kitty masks, and so on - whatever they're made of - are all welcome and encouraged. But plain latex gimp-hoods, standard respirators, drone faceplates, and similar general fetish masks are not suitable for daytime wear.

After dinner (from 7pm) the requirement for animal theming is relaxed and you may wear any style of costume, subject only to the coverage rules below and the general convention rule against any form of dress that the Convention Chairman judges to be substantially offensive or disruptive.

Littles' outfits are of course very welcome, provided that any padding is not obviously on display or allowed to become a nuisance to other attendees.

Coverage:

No genitalia should be visible in public areas at any time.

With the sole exception of Animalz as described below, buttocks must be covered and you should not go bare-chested in public.

Bare feet are not allowed in the public areas of the hotel.

Animalz:

During the Animalz event only, the usual costume rules for the Animalz dancefloor in Manchester apply. That is, genitalia must remain covered, but you may choose to wear clothing which reveals your buttocks and/or chest.

This exception applies only in the Safari Park / Bayou dance venue and its bar and toilets, and to the extent necessary to get directly from your room or changing area to the dance and back. Please do not linger in the corridors, nor enter the main hotel lounge or bar, unless you meet the convention's normal standards of dress.

Outfit and Costume Restrictions:

To ensure compliance with licensing regulations and the Venue's legal requirements, we have to set a few ground rules and exceptions in order to strike a balance and still let you all flourish at the event:

- Collars, cuffs, harnesses, shibari, etc. are allowed to be worn on any outfit during the Convention, **but if they could pose a safety risk** to the wearer or those around you, you may be given suitable advice or asked to remove the offending item(s).
- Costumes and attire with visibly **anatomically correct genitals** need to always cover these areas when in the public spaces. Examples are any suits with penis sheathes, etc. If an event or photoshoot permits anything different, this will be communicated in advance or in the con schedule or events & panels.
- **No insertable** accessories can be worn in public areas at any time.
- **Diapers** are permitted to the extent that it does not cause a nuisance to fellow Attendees or cause a hygiene issue. Convention Staff reserve the right to request that Attendees change on the grounds of hygiene concerns. A minimum of dungarees or shortalls must be worn over any base layers. (*Diapers to be disposed of must*

be placed in designated containers provided by the Convention Staff and anyone leaving used diapers in hotel rooms or convention spaces will be dealt with as a contravention of these rules)

- **Body painting** is not permitted due to risk of damage to other costumes, property and the Venue, however face-paint is permitted for the purpose of costuming.

If a costume is likely to cause **offence or discomfort** to Attendees, you may be asked to change or adjust your outfit accordingly, however if you are unsure please contact us. Our rules are applied sparingly so you will find most outfits will be accepted as long as they comply with the decency and coverage rules.

These restrictions have been agreed with the Venue to ensure a safe space for all Attendees while at the same time encouraging you to **be your inner animal**.

Questions:

If you are in any doubt as to whether a particular outfit is acceptable, please send photos to info@pawsome.org.uk or [@pawsome_operations](https://t.me/pawsome_operations) on Telegram, so we can give you a definitive answer in advance.

6. Weapons, Look-Alikes, and Dangerous Items

- a) **Real weapons are not permitted in the Venue.**
- b) **Replica weapons**, tools, and toys must be approved by Stewards immediately following your registration on site. These objects will need to be tagged, and the tag must remain on for the duration that the replica is at the Convention.
- c) Refusal to tag or **failing to declare** replica weapons may result in Attendee registration being cancelled.
- d) Any item or substance that could present a **serious risk** to persons or property will be refused from the Convention premises at the discretion of Stewards.
- e) Water guns, nerf guns, and similar items should not be fired inside the Venue and externally only as part of any Pawsome offficially organised events.
- f) **Mock fights**, nerf battles, fire breathing, or any other activities that may adversely affect bystanders or property are not allowed without written permission from the Stewards.

7. Photography and Video

- a) By doing **photography and videography** at Pawsome you grant us the rights to use your work in connection with promotion of our events on social media and other places. Footage from private rooms is exempt,
- b) Pawsome **grants you the right** to use videos and photos you have taken at the Convention for private and/or non-commercial purposes only.
- c) **Pawsome is a private event.** Do not photograph or record anyone in situations where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy, including interventions by Convention first aiders or stewards. The same goes for distributing such content.
- d) Attendees **live-streaming** from the event might violate Attendees' privacy and therefore requires written permission via e-mail from the Convention communications department.
- e) **Publication in for-profit media** (such as press, television, or other commercial mass media) requires written permission via e-mail from the Convention communications department.
- f) Pawsome reserves the right to **record video and take photos in the public areas of the Convention** and areas rented by the Convention, as well as during events. By attending the Convention you agree that videos and pictures taken of you may be broadcast or used in publications without release, compensation, or notification. A release will only be required for material acquired in situations where a reasonable expectation of privacy exists.
- g) **Restrictions** or other rules may apply for certain events and areas. Those will be announced on location.

8. Pets and Animals

The **only animals allowed at Pawsome are service animals** and they must be approved prior to the Convention. If you require a service animal, you are required to contact registration, so that we can properly accommodate their needs.

9. General Hotel Rules

- a) The consumption of food or drinks purchased from outside of the Convention Hotel is **not permitted**, except in private Hotel rooms.
- b) For the safety and enjoyment of all Hotel guests, **reckless or disruptive behaviour is not permitted**.
- c) Attendees **may not enter the service areas of the Hotels** or restricted Convention areas. This includes all backstage areas, service elevators, the rooftops, emergency exits, and all areas marked as “Staff Only”.
- d) Tampering with any fire-protection devices – including abusive triggering of fire doors or alarms – is prohibited and will have **serious consequences**. The same goes for disabling smoke detectors.
- e) **Walking barefoot** is not allowed in Hotel and Convention spaces.
- f) **Physical advertising** (posters, flyers, business cards, etc.) not from Pawsome must be confined to designated, clearly marked locations. Door signs are welcome but must be taken down before checking out.
- g) Do not deliberately **crack open glow sticks** or similar items, i.e., anything containing dyeing, sticky, or corrosive material.
- h) **Smoking and vaping** (e.g., electronic cigarettes) are not permitted at Pawsome, including inside Hotel rooms. A considerable cleaning fee will be charged for smoking or vaping in contravention of these rules.
- i) **No personal items are to be left unattended** in public areas at any time and may be subject to removal without notice for security reasons.

10. Hotel Rooms, Conference Space, and Privacy

- a) You are expected to **treat Hotel rooms and Hotel property reasonably** and with care. You will be held personally liable for any damage you cause.
- b) **STICKERS!** We know fursona stickers are handed out often at events and we love to see creativity in our community. However, we must stress that stickers are **ONLY** to be put on dedicated sticker walls or boards clearly signposted. **ANY stickers placed on private property will be considered criminal damage and the person could be liable for the damage.**
- c) **Leaving a tip** instead of a mess would certainly be held in a much higher regard.
- d) If you have your **“do not disturb”** sign on your door, housekeeping might not clean and service your room.
- e) You are required to **ask your roommates for permission** before running a room party or inviting guests.
- f) You may **not disturb people** in any other Hotel rooms. Attendees must keep noise down during the quiet hours (2am -6am) and adhere to the rules posted for your room category (for instance normal, buffer, or quiet rooms).
- g) Pawsome **reserves the right** to use camera monitoring of Convention spaces (including the lounges) and areas rented by the Convention to maintain safety and prevent theft, property damage, or illegal conduct but will not be used in personal areas such as changing spaces or similar spaces and all data is held securely for the purposes of crime prevention, detection and public safety.

11. The Bottom Line

- a) By **attending the Convention**, you agree to comply with UK law, and to follow instructions from Pawsome, Stewards, and Venue/Hotel Staff.
- b) These rules will **not be debated** during the Convention. Staff from Pawsome will, however, be available for you in case you feel you have been incorrectly or wrongly accused of violating any of the rules. Decisions by Pawsome or the Venue/Hotel are final.
- c) Pawsome reserves the right to impose any **sanctions against violators** of these rules or persons involved in any other unacceptable behaviour. The definition of unacceptable behaviour remains at the sole discretion of Pawsome or the Venue/Hotel Staff.
- d) Sanctions for violating the rules may range from a **friendly reminder** to a permanent ban from the Convention.
- e) If you have **any problems with other Attendees** or Staff/Crew, please contact stewards or organisers.
- f) **When in doubt, please ask** – preferably before the Convention starts. We will gladly answer all your questions.
- g) Pawsome reserves the right to revoke membership, attendance tickets or other status of any persons found to be in breach of this policy document or other such action that may or does jeopardise the good standing of Pawsome, the Convention or the Venue.

12. Definitions

- **Convention** = Pawsome Convention held annually as advertised.
- **Venue / Hotel** = The location where the official Pawsome Convention is held.
- **Pawsome** = Pawsome Management Ltd, the organisers.
- **Volunteers / Directors / Staff / Stewards** = Volunteer's and Crew from Pawsome and/or the Venue's own Staff.
- **Attendee(s)** = Any approved and registered person attending Pawsome events.

13. Conclusion

Please **contact us** for all inquiries regarding our policies and terms and conditions. They can be reached at info@Pawsome.org.uk (before the Convention), or by visiting the front desk (during the Convention).

We hope you will have a great time!