

# Special Event Policy: Dog Access at the Washington State Garlic Fest

*Southwest Washington Fairgrounds*

## 1. Purpose

This policy establishes specific conditions under which leashed dogs may be permitted on the grounds of the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds during the Washington State Garlic Fest ("Event"). The intent is to maintain public safety, protect facilities, and ensure the Festival remains welcoming to all guests, while granting a limited exception to the standard "No Pets" rule.

## 2. Scope

This policy applies only to the Washington State Garlic Fest. It does not apply to any other events at the Fairgrounds and shall not be construed as a general change to the Fairgrounds' standing "No Pets" policy.

## 3. Conditions of Entry for Dogs

### Eligibility

- Only domesticated dogs are allowed.
- Maximum of two dogs per adult handler.
- Dogs must be at least 6 months of age, licensed, and vaccinated (Rabies, Bordetella, Parvo/Distemper, Leptospirosis).

### Leash & Control Requirements

- Dogs must be on a non-retractable leash not exceeding 6 feet in length at all times.
- Owners must maintain physical control of their dogs.
- Dogs showing aggression, excessive barking, or disruptive behavior will be removed immediately.

### Hygiene & Cleanliness

- Owners must clean up all pet waste and dispose of it properly.
- Owners must provide their own waste bags.

### Restricted Areas

- Dogs are prohibited in the following areas:
  - Food preparation/vendor booths
  - Indoor exhibit halls (unless expressly permitted)
  - Children's play zones or livestock barns

## **Waiver & Registration**

- All dog owners must sign the Waiver & Indemnification Agreement attached before entry, acknowledging responsibility for their dog's actions.
- Event staff may require owners to provide proof of vaccination/licensing upon request.

## **4. Assumption of Risk & Liability**

By allowing dogs on site under this policy:

- Dog owners assume all risks associated with bringing animals into a public event.
- Owners agree to indemnify and hold harmless Lewis County, the Washington State Garlic Fest, Fairgrounds management, staff, volunteers, and vendors against any claims arising from their dog's presence.

## **5. ADA Service Animal Requirements**

- Nothing in this policy shall override or limit the rights of individuals with disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Washington State law.
- Service animals, as defined by the ADA, are permitted in all areas where the public is allowed, regardless of this policy's restrictions.
- Staff may ask only the two ADA-permitted questions: (1) Is the animal required because of a disability? and (2) What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

## **6. Enforcement**

- Event security and staff reserve the right to deny entry or remove any dog or owner not in compliance.
- Failure to comply with this policy may result in immediate removal from the Event without refund.

## **7. Duration & Authority**

This policy is effective only for the 2025 Washington State Garlic Fest, scheduled as follows:

- **Friday, August 22nd – 12 PM to 7 PM**
- **Saturday, August 23rd – 10 AM to 7 PM**
- **Sunday, August 24th – 10 AM to 4 PM**

Renewal or continuation of this exception requires Fairgrounds and County review prior to future Fests.

**This policy is authorized by the legislative authority of Lewis County, the Board of County Commissioners, effective August 20, 2025**

## Washington State Garlic Fest – Dog Owner Waiver & Indemnification Agreement

I, the undersigned, acknowledge and agree to the following conditions as a requirement for bringing my dog(s) onto the grounds of the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds during the Washington State Garlic Fest (“Event”):

### 1. Leash Requirement

- All dogs must be kept on a secure leash no longer than **6 feet** in length at all times while on the Fairgrounds property.
- Owners/handlers must maintain physical control of their dogs at all times.

### 2. Owner Responsibility

- I am solely responsible for the actions, behavior, and care of my dog(s).
- I agree to immediately clean up and properly dispose of my dog’s waste.
- Dogs showing aggressive behavior will be removed from the Event at the discretion of Event staff or security.

### 3. Assumption of Risk

- I understand that bringing a dog to a crowded public event involves inherent risks, including but not limited to interactions with other animals, children, and large groups of people.
- I voluntarily assume all risks of injury, loss, or damage related to my dog’s presence at the Event.

### 4. Indemnification & Hold Harmless

- In consideration of being allowed to bring my dog(s) to the Event, I agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Lewis County, the Washington State Garlic Fest, its officers, employees, volunteers, and agents from and against any and all claims, demands, damages, liabilities, losses, costs, and expenses (including attorney’s fees) arising out of or related to:
  - Any injury or damage caused by my dog(s), whether to persons, property, or other animals;
  - My failure to comply with Event rules, County policies, or applicable laws regarding animal control.

### 5. Acknowledgment

- I have read and fully understand this Waiver & Indemnification Agreement.
- I voluntarily agree to its terms and conditions as a prerequisite for bringing my dog(s) to the Event.
- I hereby fully and forever release and discharge Lewis County, Washington State Garlic Fest, and their employees from all claims, demands, damages, rights of action, or cause of action present or future, whether the same be known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, resulting from or arising out of or in connection with this Event.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_