



## **A Bride's Best Friend**

He supports you more than your human friends. He comes to your side when you are blue. He even saved the life of a Stoneleigh senior manager's wife. Really! No wonder some brides want their dogs by their side on their special day!

Weddings are a celebration of love and family, so if your family includes a beloved dog, here are some include him in your wedding ceremony? When involving Fido in your ceremony:

- Confirm your venue and officiate are dog friendly. Some outdoor sites will accommodate a dog. Stoneleigh is dog friendly. See policy below.
- Choose what role your dog will fill. Dogs make cute ring bearers. Send a trained dog down the aisle with a basket in his mouth that contains the ring or attach the ring to his collar. Some companies make ring-bearing pillows that attach to dog collars. If Fido has an independent streak, have an attendant accompany them down the aisle. Some brides choose to carry a small dog in a basket instead of or in addition to a bridal bouquet.
- Advise the wedding party about your plans to include the dog. Be mindful of allergies. Have a contingency plan.
- Schedule a grooming appointment for the day before the wedding, so Fido looks his best for his time in the spotlight. Dress him up with a special collar, ribbons, or flowers to coordinate with the rest of the party.
- Remember to designate a dog handler. They should work with the dog before the wedding, training the dog. If Fido's job is to sit quietly through the vows, run through a mock ceremony regularly. If you want him to carry a basket or walk down the aisle with the rings, run him through his paces regularly as the wedding approaches. During the wedding, make sure your handler is equipped with water, treats, and waste bags. Having someone keep tabs on your dog will help the process run smoothly.

### **Stoneleigh Policy on Dogs in Wedding Ceremonies**

Dogs are allowed to be involved in ceremonies subject to the following rules:

- Animals must be attended and controlled at all times.
- Animals may not enter any buildings.
- Animals must be removed from property immediately following ceremony.
- Venue is not responsible for cleaning up after animals. This is the responsibility of event client.
- Event client is responsible for any damages created by animal.

*Aisle Dish is written by Meredith Thomas, Stoneleigh's in-house Event Consultant. If you would like assistance planning your special day, Meredith offers a complimentary one-hour consultation to all brides hosting their wedding at the Club and is available for further planning services at an additional fee. Contact Meredith at [mthomas@stoneleighgolf.com](mailto:mthomas@stoneleighgolf.com) or 540.338.4653 ext. 303.*