

**Policy Title:**                    **Animals and Pets Policy**

**Applicability:**                **College-wide**

**Oversight Department:**    **Office of Safety and Security**

**Purpose:**                        **The purpose of this policy is to maintain animal control to ensure a safe and healthy environment for the College community, its visitors and guests.**

**Effective Adoption Date:**   **February 2, 2009**

**Policy Statement**

In order to promote the safety of persons on campus and maintain sanitary conditions, the College has adopted strict regulations regarding the presence of animals and pets on its grounds and in its buildings.

**Definition of Terms**

“Service Animal” – A service animal is trained to perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The U.S. Department of Justice defines “service animal” under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) as “any guide dog, or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair or fetching dropped items.” A service animal is not a pet.

“Research Animal” – A research or laboratory animal is used within the academic setting for instructional and/or research purposes.

“Domesticated Animal” – A domesticated animal is an animal that is tame and fit for human companionship.

“Stray Animal” – A Stray animal is any domestic animal on campus that is unattended or not physically restrained, i.e., leashed or caged, whether or not accompanied by a person.

**Policy**

With the exception of service animals and approved research animals, animals are not permitted in College buildings, including administrative offices, academic buildings, residential buildings, and on-campus structures.

The owner of a service animal is responsible for the care and supervision of the animal, for any damage or injury caused by the animal while on College property, and for insuring that the animal does not pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others.

Animals are not permitted in residential halls; however, fish in small aquariums (fewer than 10 gallons) are permitted in residential rooms.

Domesticated animals are permitted on the grounds of the campus (but not in campus buildings) as long as all of the following conditions are met:

- Animals brought to campus are physically restrained and/or contained at all times by the responsible owner/custodian. Dogs must be on a leash or chain that does not exceed 6 feet in length and that is in the hands of a responsible owner/custodian. Other animals must be in an appropriately secured cage, carrier, crate, or kennel. Animals may not be tethered or left unattended, including in any vehicle parked on campus. Animals not leashed or caged, or animals left unattended, are considered to be stray animals.
- Animals brought to campus are inoculated for rabies.
- An individual who brings an animal onto campus accepts sole responsibility for cleaning up after the animal.
- An individual who brings an animal onto campus accepts sole responsibility for any and all damage or injury caused by that animal.
- An individual who brings an animal onto campus accepts sole responsibility for controlling the animal so that it does not disrupt the educational process, administrative process, or other campus function, or otherwise create a nuisance.

The College, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to prohibit animals from any campus event and to direct the removal of any animal from campus at any time. Persons who bring animals onto campus in violation of this policy will be required to leave campus with the animal immediately. Stray or unattended animals are subject to impound.