



University Policy: Animals in Campus Buildings

Policy Category: Employment, Benefits, and Workplace; Public Safety, Risk Management, Environmental Health and Safety

Subject: Prohibition of Animals in University Controlled and Managed Buildings and Offices

Office Responsible for Review of this Policy: Office of Finance and Treasurer, Campus Life, Academic Affairs

Procedures: Guidelines for Service, Emotional Support/ Assistance, and Therapy Animals on Campus (Incorporated in Policy – Attached), Statement on Animal Use in Research and Education

Related University Policies: Student Conduct Code, Residence Hall Regulations

I. SCOPE

This policy applies to all faculty, staff, students, visitors and guests of the University.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

Animals may pose a real or perceived threat to other members of the University community and may disrupt University activities. Consequently, animals brought into campus buildings present a liability for the University that is not normally associated with university operations. In order to promote a safe, non-threatening and healthy work environment for the members of the University community and to protect the University's physical assets, American University prohibits animals in campus buildings. (Exceptions are defined in the Policy below.)

III. DEFINITIONS

Campus Building – Any University controlled and/or managed building and/or office.

Emotional Support/ Assistance Animals – As defined by the Fair Housing Act, an emotional support/ assistance animal may provide physical assistance, emotional support, calming, stability, and other kinds of support. The presence of the animal must be necessary in order to provide the resident with a disability the use and enjoyment of the dwelling. There must be an identifiable relationship or nexus between the disability and the assistance or support the animal provides. Emotional support/ assistance animals do not perform work or tasks that qualify them as “Service Animals” under the Americans with Disabilities Act (see attached for further details).

Therapy Animal – An animal owned by a therapist or is certified with an animal-assisted therapy program and is used by the University’s Counseling Center as an integral part of a treatment process. A Therapy animal demonstrates a good temperament and reliable, predictable behavior.

Handler – Person accompanying an animal or responsible for bringing it to campus.

Pet – Any animal, including amphibians, mammals, reptiles and birds kept for pleasure or companionship.

Research and Teaching Animals – Animals approved for use in direct support of the University’s teaching and research mission and used in accordance with guidelines established by the Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies.

Service Animal – As defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a service animal is any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. (In some instances, as set out in the ADA regulations at 28 CFR 35.136(i), a miniature horse may qualify as a service animal.) The work the dog has been trained to do must be directly related to the person’s disability (see attached for further details).

Service Dogs-in-Training – Dogs being trained by an approved service dog training program. Service dogs-in-training are not permitted in campus buildings.

IV. POLICY

It is the policy of American University that animals are not permitted in University controlled and managed buildings, except for the animals listed in this policy and defined above.

Animals brought onto campus grounds (outside of buildings) must be on a leash, in a vehicle, contained or kenneled or otherwise kept under physical control and possession of the handler at all times. If an animal demonstrates threatening or aggressive behavior to members of the University community and guests (e.g., growling, scratching, biting), its handler may be directed to remove the animal from University property. Animal handlers are responsible for cleaning up after their animals while on campus grounds. Additionally, handlers are expected to be aware of and comply with District of Columbia ordinances regarding the storage, transport and care of animals.

Animals found out of compliance with this policy are subject to impounding and may be taken, at the owner’s expense, to the District of Columbia Department of Health Animal Shelter, operated by the Washington Humane Society. Faculty, staff, or students found in violation of this policy may be subject to disciplinary actions in accordance with the Student Conduct Code, WCL Honor Code, Staff Personnel Policies Manual, and Faculty Manual, as appropriate.

American University permits the following animals in campus buildings:

- (1) Service animals;
- (2) Emotional Support/ Assistance Animals in an individual's University residence hall room, provided that the animal has been approved as a disability-related housing accommodation by the Academic Support and Access Center (ASAC) (the individual with the approved housing accommodation must be able to produce an ASAC approval letter if questioned about the presence of the animal);
- (3) Therapy animals used by the University's Counseling Center for treatment purposes;
- (4) Research and Teaching Animals;
- (5) On-Duty police, search and rescue, detection or guard dogs;
- (6) Pets of full-time faculty and professional staff living in University housing.

Although the above exempt animals are permitted in campus buildings within the limitations described, these animals must be housebroken and remain under the control of their handlers at all times. The care or supervision of an exempt animal is solely the responsibility of its handler and/or owner. The University reserves the right to exclude an exempt animal whose behavior is disruptive or poses a threat to the health or safety of others.

Any University official is authorized to maintain compliance with this policy when non-compliance is observed or reported. The Department of Public Safety will enforce this policy to ensure a safe University environment for all. Anyone who brings an animal to the University will be held liable for any damages or injuries attributable to the behavior of the animal while on campus.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPROVAL


Policy revised September 2018

This policy needs to be signed by the appropriate officer (listed below) before it is considered approved.

This document was approved and signed by:



Doug Kudravetz, CFO, Vice President and Treasurer



Fanta Aw, Vice President of Campus Life & Inclusive Excellence



Mary Clark, Interim Provost

Date Approved: 9-28-18