



Policy Title:	Animals On Campus
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Policies Superseded:	STUD-CLSE 340
Policy Management Area(s):	President

SUMMARY

Coastal Carolina University allows individuals to bring animals on to University property in accordance with federal, state and local laws, and in other situations, subject to the rules of this policy. The University reserves the right to limit the permissibility of animals on campus as it deems necessary and in accordance with applicable laws.

Unless otherwise outlined below, animals are NOT allowed inside of University buildings.

POLICY

I. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Domestic Animals** — Any domesticated animal, or pet that is a member of a species that normally and customarily shares human habitat, and is normally dependent on humans for food and shelter, including dogs, cats, and other common domestic animals, but not including feral or wild animals as defined herein.
- B. **Feral Animals** — Any domesticated animal, such as a dog or a cat, that has returned to live in wild conditions.
- C. **Service Animals** — An animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability. The work performed by the animal must be directly related to the person’s disability. The mere provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort or companionship by the animal’s presence does not constitute work or tasks for the purpose of this definition. Federal law defines service animals as dogs or in some cases, miniature horses. Species other than dogs are generally not considered service animals.
- D. **Support Animals** — An animal that provides emotional or other support to an individual with a disability. Support animals are not required to be trained to perform work or tasks. They may include species other than dogs or miniature horses.
- E. **Therapy Animals** — An animal trained to provide a health benefit to a particular population, such as hospital patients.
- G. **Working Animals** — An animal trained and used for labor.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH ANIMALS ON CAMPUS

Owners and keepers of animals on campus are responsible for their animals at all times. This responsibility includes complying with all federal and state laws and local animal ordinances, as well as all University policies and guidelines including the following requirements:

- A. Providing appropriate restraint, control and supervision of animals at all times.
- B. Providing animals with appropriate care, including food, water, shelter, health care and humane treatment.
- C. Cleaning up and disposing of all animal waste (both indoors and outdoors) in a timely and effective fashion.
- D. Not allowing odor, noise, damage or other behavior of animals that disturbs others or damages University grounds, facilities or property.
- E. Having animals wear current identification and vaccination tags when applicable.

III. SERVICE ANIMALS

A. Students

According to Title II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, service dogs are permitted to accompany a person with a disability in any public space, unless the dog's presence would compromise a sterile environment. Service dogs may attend class, visit the dining hall and take part in other campus activities. An accommodation through Accessibility and Disability Services is not required for a service dog. Service dogs should be regarded as working and should not be treated as or referred to as pets. No specific type of identification is required. Individuals with service animals are strongly encouraged, but not required, to inform Accessibility and Disability Services, instructors and University Housing of the use of a service animal. This communication provides both the individual and the University with an opportunity to discuss and plan for the safety of the service animal as well as any other accommodations that may be needed.

B. Employees

Because Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act does not specifically address service animals, a request for the use of a service animal at work is processed as any other request for accommodation. Employees should contact Human Resources and Equal Opportunity regarding this request for accommodation. The University may request documentation or demonstration for the need of a service animal. This process provides both the employee and the University with an opportunity to discuss and plan for the safety of the animal, any accommodation to work areas that may need to be made, as well as any other concerns that may arise.

IV. SUPPORT ANIMALS

A. Students

It is the policy of the University that individuals are generally prohibited from having animals of any type, except fish, in University Housing. Accessibility and Disability Services will consider a request by an individual with a disability for a reasonable accommodation from this prohibition to allow a support animal.

However, no support animal may be kept in University Housing at any time prior to the individual receiving approval as a reasonable accommodation pursuant to this policy. A resident wishing to request a support animal should follow Accessibility and Disability Services general procedures for requesting an accommodation, which can be found on the Accessibility and Disability Services website.

When making housing assignments, the University, in consultation with the resident, and other parties, as appropriate, may consider the criteria below in determining whether the presence of the animal is reasonable:

1. Whether the animal poses or has posed in the past a direct threat to the individual or others;
2. Whether the animal causes or has caused excessive damage to University property beyond reasonable wear and tear;
3. Whether the size of the animal is too large for available assigned housing space;
4. Whether the animals' presence would force another individual from housing (e.g., serious allergies);
5. Whether the animals' presence otherwise violates individuals' right to peace and quiet enjoyment; and/or
6. Whether the animal is housebroken or is unable to live with others in a reasonable manner.

The individual must provide written consent for Accessibility and Disability Services to disclose information regarding the request for and presence of the support animal to those individuals who may be impacted by the presence of the animal including, but not limited to, University Housing personnel and potential and/or current roommate(s)/neighbor(s). Such information shall be limited to information related to the animal and shall not include information related to the individual's disability.

If a student with a support animal approved by Accessibility and Disability Services is traveling for official University purposes and wishes to have the animal accompany him/her on the trip, the student must contact Accessibility and Disability Services at least one week prior to the departure date, or as soon as the student is on notice of the upcoming trip, to obtain approval for the animal to be transported in University-supplied transportation.

B. Employees

Because support animals are not covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act but are covered under the Fair Housing Act, it is the policy of the University that employees are not to have support animals in their campus work spaces.

If an employee lives on campus or travels as part of the terms of employment, and they wish to have a support animal, they should contact Human Resources and Equal Opportunity. Additional information can be found in the Professional Live-In Staff Agreement, available from University Housing.

V. DOMESTIC ANIMALS

- A. Domestic animals brought to campus must be under the complete control of the owner at all times and present no hazard to people or property.
- B. Domestic animals on campus grounds must be securely confined in a vehicle, cage, leash not exceeding seven feet in length or similar restrictive conveyance.
- C. Domestic animals must not be tethered to a stationary fixture or tree or left unattended on campus.
- D. The University may take reasonable efforts to remove an animal confined in a vehicle when there appears to be eminent danger to the animal due to inadequate ventilation or higher temperatures. The University is not liable for any associated repair/damage costs to the vehicle for this action and the animal's owner assumes full responsibility.
- E. Domestic animals brought to campus must have a valid license as evidence of current rabies vaccinations, or they may be subject to removal from campus.
- F. The University reserves the right to take action to remove any animal from University property if the safety of others, destruction of property, or disturbance warrants such removal.
- G. Professional live-in staff may have a domestic animal as outlined in the Professional Live-In Staff Apartment Agreement.
- H. Animals other than service and support animals are not allowed in University buildings unless otherwise outlined in this policy. See section VI. Fish in Aquariums, VII. Therapy Animals, VIII. Animals in University Programming, XI. Working Animals, and section V.G. Domestic Animals.
- I. The University reserves the right, at its discretion, to designate certain outdoor areas off limits to animals except service and pre-approved support animals.

VI. FISH IN AQUARIUMS

- A. Fish contained in a tank of ten (10) gallons or less are allowed in University offices and housing, pursuant to the University Housing Community Living Guide. Employees living on campus may have an aquarium up to thirty (30) gallons in their residence, pursuant to the Professional Live-In Staff Apartment Agreement.
- B. Fish are defined as legless, cold-blooded, aquatic vertebrate animals with fins, gills

- and scales.
- C. Aquariums used for educational or treatment purposes by University faculty or staff in classrooms or common areas are exempt from these limitations.

VII. THERAPY ANIMALS

- A. A therapy animal trained for Animal Assisted Therapy may be brought into appropriate University health or mental health facilities to work with its trained owners/handlers in order to provide service in conjunction with a University-approved program in one or more therapeutic settings, provided that each owner/handler:
 - 1. Has obtained approval for the presence and use of the Therapy Animal from the vice president of campus life and student engagement.
 - 2. Can provide:
 - a. Proof that the animal is registered with a therapy animal organization such as Therapy Dogs International and/or have a Canine Good Citizen certificate from the American Kennel Club;
 - b. Evidence of liability insurance coverage protecting the University from claims arising out of the presence and activity of the animal; and
 - c. Evidence that the animal is licensed and fully inoculated in accordance with Horry County regulations.
 - 3. Executes an Animal Assisted Therapy - Owner/Handler Agreement, waiving claims against the University with respect to any injuries (including death) sustained by the Therapy Animal during the time the Therapy Animal is on campus working with its owner/handler to provide service in conjunction with a University-approved program in one or more therapeutic or educational settings.
- B. Each patient/client who reasonably may be expected to come into contact or proximity with a Therapy Animal is advised in advance that the Therapy Animal will be present and consents in writing to the presence and, if applicable, the use of the Therapy Animal in that patient's treatment. The consent document will include a waiver of claims against the University related to the patient's interaction with the Therapy Animal.

VIII. ANIMALS IN UNIVERSITY PROGRAMMING

- A. The University recognizes the importance animals can play in the role of education, and in certain circumstances, will allow animals to be a part of the curriculum.
- B. Therapy animals may be utilized in programming to educate others about mental health issues and treatment if approved by the vice president of campus life and student engagement. See section VII. Therapy Animals.

- C. Requests to use an animal in academic programming should be submitted to the Office of Risk Management at least two weeks prior to the event start date.
- D. During each event utilizing an animal:
 - 1. The animal must remain under the control of the owner/handler at all times (leash, pen or similar containment).
 - 2. The sponsoring office/organization must assign one person to monitor each animal/handler pair at all times. Monitor responsibilities include:
 - a. Ensuring the handler remains in control of the animal and properly disposes of waste.
 - b. Ensuring that any people or other animals who might agitate the animal are asked to separate themselves from the area.
 - c. Requiring any animal who becomes agitated or uncontrolled to leave the event until the animal becomes calm.
 - d. Reporting any incidents of injury to the Office of Risk Management.

IX. ANIMALS AND UNIVERSITY TRANSPORTATION

- A. University Shuttles
 - 1. Service animals and those support animals pre-approved to accompany an individual around campus are allowed on University shuttles.
 - 2. Shuttle drivers have the right to request any approved animals boarding shuttles be properly restrained on a leash or by other appropriate means.
- B. University-Supplied Transportation
 - 1. Unless pre-approved, no animals are allowed in University-provided modes of transportation, including, but not limited to motor pool vehicles, rental cars and University-branded vehicles. Students should contact Accessibility and Disability Services to request approval. Faculty and staff should contact Human Resources and Equal Opportunity to request approval.
 - 2. Unless pre-approved, no animals are allowed on University-owned golf carts or utility vehicles. To seek approval, please see section III. Service Animals and section IV. Support Animals.

X. FERAL OR WILD ANIMALS

- A. Never approach, pet or handle feral or wild animals.
- B. Feral or wild animals that are not a risk and do not represent a hazard cause property damage, or create a public nuisance, and that do not require human intervention, may inhabit the campus grounds.
- C. No person may do anything to attract feral or wild animals to campus, nor may any person feed or set out food or water for feral or wild animals on campus or engage in any other human intervention. Human intervention includes, but is not limited to, attracting, feeding, watering, providing medication and building shelters for

animals.

- D. Feral or wild animals that are a potential risk, represent a hazard, cause property damage, create a nuisance or otherwise pose a potential threat to the health or safety of humans will be regulated, controlled and humanely relocated in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

XI. WORKING ANIMALS

- A. A law enforcement agency animal may accompany a law enforcement officer onto campus grounds and into campus facilities in the performance of the officer's official duties.
- B. The officer's use of the law enforcement agency animal shall comport with applicable constitutional and legal standards and requirements.
- C. Search and rescue animals may accompany their handler onto campus grounds, and if necessary, into campus facilities to assist in a search and rescue operation.

XII. ANIMALS NOT GOVERNED BY THIS POLICY

- A. Animals involved in authorized University research and/or instruction.

XII. CONTACTS

CONTACT	TELEPHONE	WEB
Accessibility and Disability Services	843-349-2503	www.coastal.edu/disabilityservices/
University Housing	843-349-6400	www.coastal.edu/housing/
University Compliance	843-349-6984	www.coastal.edu/universitycompliance/
Department of Public Safety	843-349-2177	www.coastal.edu/services/safety and security/publicsafety/
Human Resources and Equal Opportunity	843-349-2036	www.coastal.edu/hreo/