



University Policy

University Policy Name: Animals on Campus Policy		University Policy No.: UP-05-03	
Initial Adoption Date: July 7, 2025		Revision Date(s):	
Responsible Unit: Chief of Police and University Risk Manager		Responsible Executive: VP Finance and Administration/CFO	
Authority		Americans with Disabilities Act , §504 Rehabilitation Act , Fair Housing Act , Art. IX, §7, FL Constitution ; §413.08, FL Statutes , BOG Reg. 1.001 ; University Regs. 1.019, 2.001; 2.012; 10.103 ; BOTP 2008-09 ;	
Applicability		Faculty, Students, Staff, Visitors	

I. Policy Statement and Purpose

- A. Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (“University” or “FAMU”) is committed to protecting the safety, health, and welfare of all individuals in its community. This Policy establishes guidelines for when animals are allowed and the standards for their care and control on campus.
- B. Animals, including pets, are generally prohibited on campus unless otherwise indicated in this Policy. Individuals with disabilities may bring Service Animals and ESAs onto University Premises as outlined below. Approved Animals may also be allowed at Programs or Special Events under certain conditions. However, the University may require the removal of an animal, including a service or assistance animal, from University property or University-sponsored events if it is determined that the animal poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others. The [Department of Campus Safety and Security \(University Police Department\)](#) will determine whether an animal poses a “direct threat” to the health or safety of others on a case-by-case basis and will be based on that particular animal’s actual behavior or history. The University has a “one bite” approach that requires an animal to be removed from University property after a single occurrence of unprovoked biting or other aggressive behavior by the animal. For additional information, contact the [University Police](#) Department at (850) 599-3256. All animals on campus must be up to date on vaccinations.

II. Definitions

- A. **Animal for Academic, Research, or Law Enforcement Purposes:** Animals being studied for research or treated in the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS) veterinary programs.
- B. **Approved Animal:** An animal that meets at least one of the categories in Section IV and that has been approved to be present on University property.
- C. **Campus:** Includes both on-campus areas and off-campus sites where the University conducts authorized programs, activities, or services.

- D. **Emotional Support Animal (ESA):** ESAs provide support and comfort to individuals with qualifying disabilities, are a prescribed part of therapy for emotional and psychological disabilities, and serve to alleviate symptoms of the disability.
- E. **Pet:** A pet is any animal that is not a Service Animal, an ESA, or an animal brought on campus for a legitimate educational purpose or for an approved program as provided herein.
- F. **Responsible Party/Owner:** The individual(s) responsible for the animal or for bringing the animal on University property. This includes animal trainers and handlers.
- G. **Service Animal:** An animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. Service Animals are dogs, or in limited circumstances miniature horses, and exclude ESAs.
- H. **Wild or Feral Animal:** An undomesticated animal that lives on its own, outside of human care and/or control.

III. Roles and Responsibilities

A. Responsible Party/Owner:

1. Approved Animals shall be registered as noted in section IV, vaccinated, and/or comply with all local, state, or federal government requirements. For information regarding local animal control visit the [City of Tallahassee](#) website or call (850) 891-2958.
2. Approved Animals are not permitted to run at-large within the boundaries of University properties. Approved Animals should not be tethered and left unattended for prolonged periods. Approved Animals shall be kept securely controlled by a harness or a leash, not to exceed six (6) feet in length, unless a reasonable accommodation has been granted based upon disability.
3. Any individual may report an abandoned, or unattended animal in a vehicle, if the animal is perceived to be in distress to the University Police. A Responsible Party who abandons or leaves an animal unattended may be fined. The abandonment of animals on any University property is strictly prohibited.
4. It is the responsibility of the Responsible Party to control and care for the Approved Animal, as well as to discard the animal's waste in the appropriate outdoor garbage receptacles. No animal waste shall be discarded inside indoor garbage receptacles.
5. If an Approved Animal is out of control, disrupts the University's educational processes, administrative processes, or other campus functions, or it is not housebroken, the Responsible Party shall remove the animal immediately. In addition, the Responsible Party shall be held liable for any damage to person or property caused by the animal's presence on University property.
6. The University may prohibit animals in certain locations due to health or safety restrictions where animals may be in danger, or their presence may compromise the integrity of the particular research. Examples of such restricted locations include, but are not limited to, specific research laboratories, mechanical rooms or custodial closets, areas where protective clothing is necessary and other areas where the animal's presence may

constitute a danger or a fundamental alteration of the program or activity conducted in the area.

7. If an individual (or group) wants to use an animal in a special event on University property (e.g. circus, dog show, etc.), the individual must obtain written approval from [the Department of Environmental Health & Safety \(EH&S\)](#) at (850) 599-3442, three (3) weeks before the event, obtain written approval for the event contract, obtain liability insurance (if applicable), and notify the [Plant Operations Management \(POM\) Venue Management](#) in advance of the event.

B. Wild or Feral Animals: The touching or feeding of wild or feral animals is expressly prohibited by the general public, except by specially trained employees or contractors hired by the University. Dangerous animals may wander onto University property; therefore, individuals should not approach wild or feral animals. If the wild or feral animal appears to threaten the safety of humans and/or property, contact the [University Police](#) Department at (850) 599-3256 or 911 to take appropriate action. If the animal does not present an imminent danger to the life or safety of humans and/or property, contact [POM Campus Services](#) at (850) 599-3250, or [EH&S](#) at (850) 599-3442 to take appropriate action.

C. Reporting and removal of dead, injured, stray, distressed, or threatening animals: [Campus Services](#) is responsible for removing of dead or injured animals. The Responsible Party must pay any costs associated with such removal of an animal. Individuals may report animals that are in distress or animals that may be a threat by calling the [University Police](#) Department at (850) 599-3256 or 911.

IV. Procedures for Approved Animals

A. Service Animals

1. A Service Animal must be trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. The work or tasks performed by a Service Animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors.
2. Prior approval is not required to bring a Service Animal onto University property; however, if a student with a service animal plans to reside in University Housing, see IV.B.2. below. If University personnel inquire whether an animal is a service animal, they may only ask the two following questions: (1) is the animal a service animal required because of a disability, and (2) what work or task has the animal been trained to perform? See civil and criminal penalties in Florida Statute § 413.08 for making false claims.
3. Please contact the [Office of Equal Opportunity Programs](#) (EOP) to request reasonable accommodations at (850) 599-3076.

B. Emotional Support Animals

1. As described in the ESA Policy, University [Regulation 2.001](#), which is incorporated herein by reference, ESAs are only permitted within an individual's assigned housing unit. ESAs

are prohibited from classrooms, campus buildings, common rooms, dining facilities, other areas with University Housing residence halls, and campus events.

2. Students should request a reasonable accommodation through the [Center for Disability Access & Resources](#) (CeDAR) when seeking to reside in University Housing with their Service Animal or ESA. These accommodation requests will be coordinated with FAMU's [Housing Office](#).
3. The University may remove or prohibit an Approved Animal from University Premises if the animal is a non-domesticated, exotic, or poisonous species and is deemed a safety risk to residence halls or the broader University community by EH&S.


C. Animals for Academic, Research or Law Enforcement Purposes

The Responsible Party must have written approval from the Office of Research Compliance (for academic, research, and/or testing) or the University Chief of Police (for law enforcement investigations, search and rescue operations, K-9 officers) before bringing the animal onto University property.

V. Complaints and Enforcement


- A. **Complaints.** Individuals who believe they have been improperly denied access to a service animal or emotional support animal may file a complaint with the University's Office of Equal Opportunity Programs.
- B. **Enforcement.** Failure to comply with this Policy may result in disciplinary measures, and civil and/or criminal prosecution in accordance with applicable University regulations, policies, collective bargaining agreements, local, state, and federal law.

VI. Administration: The Division of Finance and Administration is responsible for administering this Policy.



Timothy L. Beard, Ph.D.
Interim President

7/7/25
Date



Donald E. Palm, III, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

7/7/25
Date

Attachment(s)

N/A

Related Resource(s)

- [FANG](#) Student Handbook
- [Housing Guidelines](#)
- [Emotional Support Animal Application](#) and [Agreement Form](#)