Animals on Campus

Major Topics

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I. Introduction

The University of Kentucky is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities; fulfilling its responsibilities under federal, state, and local laws and regulations; ensuring the health and safety of its community; and preserving the integrity of its buildings and property.

This regulation establishes the University’s policies and procedures regarding service animals and other privately-owned animals on University property.

II. Entities Affected

This Administrative Regulation (AR) applies to all members of the University community, including faculty, staff, students, and visitors.

III. Policy

The University of Kentucky generally prohibits individuals from bringing animals inside any University owned, leased, or controlled buildings or structures.

The University allows service animals, service animals in training, and certain other animals in University buildings with some exceptions, as described in this regulation.

Service animals and other animals allowed in University buildings or on University property shall be appropriately attended, restrained, and controlled by the animal’s owner or handler at all times.
IV. Definitions

A. Attended and Restrained

“Attended and restrained” means in the immediate vicinity of an owner or handler, and either on a harness, leash or other tether or in a cage. However, in the case of a Service Animal, if such restraints would interfere with the animal’s safe and effective performance of work or tasks the service animal shall be otherwise under the owner/handler’s control (e.g., voice-control, signals, or other effective means). An animal left fastened to a stationary object is not considered to be appropriately attended.

For University research animals and farm animals, “Attended and Restrained” means the animal is confined or controlled by a cage, stall, barn or other structure, restricted pasture, or other effective means.

B. Disability

“Disability” means, with respect to an individual:

1. A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one (1) or more major life activities;
2. A record of such an impairment; or
3. Being regarded as having such an impairment, and as otherwise defined in the American Disabilities Act.

C. Domestic Animal

“Domestic animal” means those species of animals that normally and customarily share human habitat and are normally dependent on humans for food and shelter, such as dogs, cats, and other common domestic animals, but not including feral or wild animals.

D. Handler

“Handler” means any person with a disability a service animal assists, or a personal care attendant who handles the animal for the person with a disability, or a person who is training a service animal in accordance with KRS 258.500.

E. Service Animal

“Service animal” means any dog* that is individually 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 and meets the definition of “service animal” under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations at 28 CFR 35.104. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. Service Animal also includes a dog in training as described in KRS 258.500. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for purposes of this definition.

* Under particular circumstances set forth in the ADA regulations at 28 CRF 35.136(i), a miniature horse may qualify as a service animal.

F. University Property
“University property” means property that is owned, leased, or controlled by the University. For purposes of this regulation “property” includes buildings and structures, grounds, parking structures, enclosed bridges and walkways, sidewalks, and parking lots.

V. Animals Allowed on University Property

A. The following animals are allowed in on University property, subject to limitations provided in this regulation:

1. Service animals while performing their duties and in accordance with Section VI of this regulation;

2. Animals in training to be service animals in accordance with KRS 258.500;

3. Any animal that is officially part of the University’s teaching, research, farming, extension, or clinical programs and used directly in support of the University's missions;

4. Domestic animals in private residences such as Maxwell Place, homes of University farm employees and managers, and residences at College of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service off-campus property per lease or housing agreement;

5. Fish in containers of ten gallons or less, at the discretion of the building coordinator;

6. On-duty police dogs and horses; and

7. Pets/therapy animals in accordance with UK HealthCare Policy and Procedure A11-050.

B. In addition, a one-time exemption may be granted for events involving animals. To be granted such an exemption, an individual shall make a specific request to the Director of the Student Center.

C. Recognizing that the University is part of the surrounding neighborhoods and community, privately owned domestic animals under proper restraint of their owner are allowed on University property, but may not enter buildings or structures.

D. The owner or handler shall clean up all animal waste and may be asked to remove an animal from University property if it is disruptive (e.g. barking, wandering, displaying aggressive behavior), not housebroken, ill, unhygienic, or unsanitary.

VI. Service Animals

A. Responsibilities of Service Animal Owners and Handlers

1. An owner or handler of a service animal shall comply with all state laws, local licensure and vaccination requirements, and University regulations. All trainers accompanied by an assistance dog shall have in their personal possession identification verifying that they are trainers of assistance dogs (KRS 258.500).

2. The care and supervision of a service animal is the responsibility of the owner or handler. A service animal shall have a harness, leash, or other tether. If the use of a jacket, harness, leash or tether interferes with the service animal’s safe, effective performance of the service animal’s work or task, the animal shall be otherwise under the handler's control by other effective means.

3. The owner or handler shall clean up all animal waste.
4. An owner or handler may be asked to remove an animal from University property if it is disruptive (e.g. barking, wandering, displaying aggressive behavior), not housebroken, ill, unhygienic, or unsanitary.

B. Restricted Areas

The University may prohibit the use of service animals or animals in training in certain locations due to health or safety restrictions, where service animals may be in danger, or where their use may compromise the integrity of research or cause health issues. Restricted locations may include, but are not limited to: research laboratories, classrooms with demonstration/research animals, medical and veterinary surgical areas, certain health care areas, nuclear research areas, and food preparation areas. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) is responsible for assisting handlers in identifying restricted areas.

C. Interacting with Service Animals

Service animals work and perform tasks to assist persons with disabilities and are not pets. Members of the University community shall not:

1. Touch or feed a service animal unless invited to do so;
2. Deliberately distract or startle a service animal; or
3. Separate or attempt to separate a service animal from the person using the animal's service.

VII. Registration and Procedures

A. Visitors

Service animals accompanying individuals with disabilities are welcome in all areas of campus that are open to the public (except in situations determined to apply under the Section VI above). Specific questions related to the use of service animals at the University by visitors should be directed to the ADA Coordinator in the Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity.

B. Faculty, Staff, and Students

Faculty, staff, and students with a disability who utilize a service animal or animal in training shall register annually with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC may ask for information regarding the individual's disability, course schedule, or University employment. The DRC may also ask for proof of the animal's licensure and vaccination record.

1. Students

Student requests to have an animal accompany the student on campus are handled by the Disability Resource Center, in consultation with faculty, Residential Life, and/or other University officials who may be involved in implementing the requested accommodation. The Disability Resource Center may be contacted by phone at call V/TDD (859) 257-2754. See the DRS website for more information.

2. Faculty, Staff, and Student Employees

(a) Faculty and staff employee requests for reasonable disability accommodations, including requests to have an animal at work, are handled by the Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity, and, as appropriate, in consultation with Human Resources and the individual's employing unit.
(b) Employees (faculty, staff, or student employees) who wish to train service animals shall have prior approval of the appropriate unit administrator. If approved, the training shall not conflict with hours of scheduled work at the University or job responsibilities.

VIII. Exceptions

Exceptions to this regulation may be granted on a case-by-case basis by the DRC or the Director of the Student Center, as appropriate, in consultation with appropriate University officials.

References and Related Materials

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
28 CFR 35.104, Definitions
28 CFR 35.136(i), Service Animals, Miniature Horses
KRS 258.500, Persons with assistance dogs not to be denied accommodations, transportation, or elevator service -- Conditions -- Exemption from licensing fees -- Denial of emergency medical treatment for assistance dog prohibited.
Lexington-Fayette County, Kentucky, Code of Ordinances, Chapter 4 – Animals and Fowl
UK HealthCare Policy and Procedure A11-050

Revision History

1/14/2013 (interim), 6/17/2013, 10/8/2013

For questions, contact: Office of Legal Counsel