

Administrative Regulation 6:11

Animals on Campus

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I. Introduction

This *Administrative Regulation* establishes the University's policies and procedures regarding service animals and other privately-owned animals on University property. 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. Service, support, research and farm, and privately-owned animals are allowed on University premises subject to the guidelines contained in this regulation.

II. Entities Affected

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

III. Policy

The University generally prohibits individuals from bringing animals on any University property.

The University does allow service animals, service animals in training, support animals, and certain other animals on University property as described in this regulation.

Service animals and other animals allowed on University property must 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 a 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 must be otherwise under the handler's control via voice-control, signals, or other appropriate 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 that a service animal assists, or a personal care attendant who handles the animal for the person with a disability, a person who owns a support animal, 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 which 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 CFR 35.136(i), a miniature horse may qualify as a service animal.

F. Support Animal

“Support animal” means an animal that provides therapeutic benefit(s) to their owner through support and companionship to help alleviate symptoms associated with a mental or emotional disability.

G. University Property

“University property” means property that is owned, operated, leased, occupied, 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.

H. University Residential Space

“University residential space” means any residential premises owned, operated, or controlled by the University.

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, residences at College of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service off-campus property per lease or housing agreement, and Residence Director residences/apartments;
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. Support animals, which are only permitted in University owned or controlled residential spaces and are not permitted to enter other University buildings or structures. Support animals are also permitted in UK HealthCare buildings 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 must make a specific request to the Director of the Student Center. Events involving animals are usually required to have general liability insurance coverage.

C. As 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 handler of any animal permitted on campus under any of these provisions must 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 Handlers

1. The handler of a service animal must comply with all state laws, local licensure and vaccination requirements, and University regulations. All trainers accompanied by an assistance dog must 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 handler. A service animal must 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 must be otherwise under the handler's control by other appropriate means.

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 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) will assist 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 must 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. Procedures for Service Animals

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 (B) 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 are not required to register the animal with any University office, but may be asked what services the animal has been trained to perform and whether the animal is vaccinated. Handlers may be asked to provide documentation of vaccination records.

Employees (faculty, staff, or student employees) who wish to train service animals must have prior approval of the appropriate unit administrator. If approved, the training must not conflict with hours of scheduled work at the University or job responsibilities.

VIII. Responsibilities of Support Animal Handlers

- A. A handler of a support animal must comply with all state laws, local licensure and vaccination requirements, and University regulations.
- B. Before bringing a support animal on campus, the student making the request must apply to the Disability Resource Center for permission to do so. The student must provide documentation from a licensed professional who has been treating the student, or from a caregiver, reliable third party, or government entity with actual knowledge of the person's disability. The letter must indicate a therapeutic need for the support animal. The University may independently verify the authenticity of any documentation offered in support of a request to bring a support animal on campus.
- C. The student may be required to provide proof that the service animal is vaccinated and housebroken.
- D. Because of the confines of University residential spaces, the student may not request an animal weighing in excess of 75 pounds as a support animal. The species of animals allowed as support animals will be determined by the Disability Resource Center
- E. Support animals must be confined to University residential spaces only. Support animals are not permitted in any University building or structure aside from University residential spaces. Support animals must be kept in their handler's rooms with the exception of time spent in outside areas for reasonable exercise.
- F. The care and supervision of a support animal is the responsibility of the handler. A support animal must be under the handler's care or control in the form of a harness, leash, or other tether if being taken outside.
- G. Any damage to University property that occurs as a result of the support animal's behavior will be the financial responsibility of the animal's handler. The University is not liable for any injuries to any employee, student, or visitor caused by the animal.
- H. Violations of this regulation regarding support animals will be addressed through corrective action under the *Code of Student Conduct, Human Resources Policies and Procedures*, or other applicable University regulations or policies. Visitors refusing to comply may be reported to the University Police Department. Possible corrective actions for individual students resulting from violations of the University student conduct process range from a warning to removal of animal from University property. Possible corrective actions for faculty and staff range from an oral warning to termination of employment. Any appeals related to the removal of animal should be submitted to the Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity within 7 business days of receiving the corrective action.

IX. Misrepresentations

Under KRS 383.085, misrepresentation related to support or service animals is a violation of Kentucky state law. Such an offense may include:

1. Misrepresenting a disability or disability related need for a service or support animal;
2. Making false statements to obtain documentation of the need for a service or support animal;
3. Creating a document that misrepresents an animal as a service or support animal;
4. Providing false documentation stating that an animal is a service or support animal; and
5. Fitting an animal which is not a service or support animal with a harness, collar, vest, or sign denoting that it is a service or support animal.

X. Exceptions

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

References and Related Materials

[28 CFR 35.104 - Definitions](#)

[28 CFR 35.136\(i\) - Service Animals, Miniature Horses](#)

[Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#)

[Fair Housing Act](#)

[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 Urban County Govt. Code of Ordinances, Chapter 4 – Animals and Fowl](#)

UK HealthCare Policy and Procedure - A11-050

Revisions

1/14/2013 (interim), 6/17/2013, 10/8/2013, 5/23/2018, 9/24/2019

For questions, contact: [Office of Legal Counsel](#)