

Guidelines for Animals on Campus - Gulfport

It is the policy of Stetson University to provide a safe, non-threatening, and healthy campus environment for our faculty, staff, students, vendors, and guests. To continue a tradition of being an animal-friendly campus, while at the same time recognizing that allowing animals on campus can create certain challenges, the following guidelines are adopted to effectuate a balanced approach to establishing an animal-friendly campus. These guidelines are intended to respond to concerns of health (especially allergies), fear, and safety regarding animals on campus.

I. Animal-Owner General Campus Guidelines

- An approved animal may be allowed on campus for occasional and infrequent short visits in the company of the owner in “animal friendly” areas defined as all outdoor general public access areas. Indoor areas are not considered animal friendly unless outlined in the subsequent sections based on the category of animal.
- Animals are to be under the control of their owners at all times. Animals should be leashed (standard six feet in length or otherwise appropriately restrained or caged) unless leashing directly impedes a service animal’s ability to perform its trained task(s).
- All animals must be healthy and pose no reasonable health risk to humans as carriers of active infections, parasites, etc. Animal owners must comply with all State of Florida and local laws and ordinances governing licensing, vaccinations, and control, and must provide proof of compliance, upon request.
- Dogs and cats must be on a flea and tick program. The owner must decide the best type of flea and tick program for his or her animal and arrange for such treatment at his or her own expense. Animal owners must provide proof of flea prevention, upon request.
- Owners should be aware of the animal’s behavior and be considerate of others. Excessive noise, barking, or other disruptive behavior is not permitted, and may result in the animal not being permitted on campus until able to meet acceptable standards of behavior.
- Owners are personally responsible for any damage the animal causes to University property, and for any injuries or illnesses caused by their animal.
- It is the owner's responsibility to ensure that the animal relieves itself outside, or in an appropriate container that is kept clean and odor free, and to clean up after the animal and dispose of the animal's waste properly.

- In the event of an indoor accident, owners are responsible for addressing the accident and properly cleaning the area. Repeated accidents may result in the animal not being permitted until able to meet acceptable standards of behavior. For safety reasons, only approved cleaning supplies per facilities are to be used to clean up after animals. Contact Facilities Management at (727) 562-7373 with any questions about appropriate cleaning supplies and techniques. The owner may be required to pay for the approved cleaning supplies.
- Stetson University, at its sole discretion, except as required by law, retains the right to deny access to any animal.

II. Service Animals

In order to ensure access for individuals with disabilities, service animals are permitted on the premises per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. ADA compliance as it relates to students is to be coordinated through the ADA Coordinator. All faculty and staff inquiries can be directed to the Office of Human Resources.

Service Animals have access to all buildings and facilities unless they are behaving inappropriately, are not housebroken, or if such access poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others and that threat cannot be eliminated or reduced by reasonable modification to other policies and practices. Appropriate alternative accommodations will be made to provide the individual with access if the animal is unable to accompany. For example, a lab course may require a sterile/clean working environment, and the presence of the service animal may directly impact the ability to maintain a sterile/clean working environment. According to the ADA, fear of animals or allergies do not constitute a “direct threat” and cannot be grounds for denying access to a service animal.

III. Service Animals In Training

As the name implies, service animals in training have not completed the training to perform the necessary work or task for an individual with a disability. Service animals in training are not covered under the ADA. However, under Florida Statute 413.08, service animals in training, while engaged in such training, are afforded the same rights as trained service animals with respect to access of public facilities. Therefore, the same standards of conduct and location access are granted to those in training in regards to Public Areas of campus. These locations include all outdoor and indoor areas of public accommodation where the general public are normally permitted to occupy, as well as any pet-friendly campus residential building that the trainer was approved to occupy.

Non-public areas would be areas that the general public does *not* normally have access to, or is not intended to have use of the facilities, as well as special risk areas, such as, but not limited to: Locker rooms, Fitness Center or Pool area, Residence that are not pet-friendly, and in-session classrooms (unless special permission granted by professor), offices & conference rooms not normally open to the general public, and any other areas deemed as non-public, special risk or unsafe by the University.

At the DeLand Campus, the Center for Community Engagement (CCE) and the Department of Housing and Residential Life have developed partnerships with local service animal training organizations. Any residential or commuter student on the Gulfport campus interested in training a service animal can contact the CCE at the DeLand campus and must abide by the expectations outlined in the Animal Trainer Agreement that can be found through the CCE. Approval of trainers interested

in participating in one of these partnerships is at the discretion of Stetson University and corresponding community partner.

IV. Comfort/ Emotional Support Animals

A comfort animal (also commonly referred to as an emotional support animal or support animal) is an animal which is prescribed by a licensed mental health professional to an individual with a disability in order to alleviate one or more identified symptoms or effects of an individual's disability. As specified in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a comfort animal is not a service animal or a therapy animal. A comfort animal does not receive specialized training to perform their role. A comfort animal accommodation must be requested in accordance with the appropriate Stetson University guidelines outlined below.

A. Gulfport Residential Students

- In accordance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Fair Housing Act, the ADA Coordinator will evaluate any requests for comfort animals with residential students, as applicable.
- The following locations are approved locations for the presence of residential students' comfort animals:
 - All areas defined as "animal friendly" within the Animal Owner General Campus Guidelines
 - Assigned residential space of the residential student only with prior housing accommodations approval through the ADA Coordinator and the Office of Residential Life. An individual is not permitted to have a comfort animal outside of the university's animal friendly areas while the documentation is reviewed and final approval/denial is pending
- When determining accommodations, the effect on other residents within the hall and other individuals within the campus community will be taken into consideration. This includes, but is not limited to, residents' wellness and willingness to share a living space with an animal.

B. Gulfport Non-residential Students

- The ADA Coordinator will evaluate any non-residential students' requests for comfort animals, as applicable.
- The following locations are approved locations for the presence of non-residential students' comfort animals:
 - All areas defined as "animal friendly" within the Animal Owner General Campus Guidelines
 - Designated areas granted for the individual's disability accommodations only with prior approval through the ADA Coordinator
- When determining accommodations, the effect on other individuals within the campus community must be taken into consideration. This includes, but is not limited to, the wellness of other campus community members.

V. Pets

The category of pets refers to any animal not otherwise specified as a service animal, service animal in training, or comfort animal. The following restrictions have been outlined concerning the category of pets:

- Acceptable pets are fish, cats, and dogs.
- The size and weight of a dog may also be a deciding factor for an acceptable pet in regards to compatibility within campus residential housing which is often restrictive in room area size, as well as safety to persons and property due to the dog size. Typically, this factor would apply to dogs ranging above 70lbs and over 30 inches tall when fully grown.
- The following dog types would not be considered as acceptable pets: Pit bulls, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, Rottweiler, Chows, Dobermans, Akita, most Bull Terrier breeds and Wolf breeds/hybrids, or any mix containing these.
- Any animal that displays aggressive behavior and/or its breed is known to be aggressive or have unpredictable behavior or negative community characteristics (e.g. aggression towards unfamiliar humans or other animals), would not be considered an acceptable pet and are not allowed on campus at any time.

A. Acceptable Student Pet Locations:

- All areas defined as “animal friendly” within the Animal Owner General Campus Guidelines
- All campus residential students with approved pets may also access designated pet friendly residential buildings, as authorized by the Office of Residential Life or Facilities Management (if a rental house) including adjacent outdoor areas.
 - Dormitory residential students are not allowed to have pets in the dormitories.
 - Aux Housing / Apartment residents are subject to the terms of their lease agreement and permitted to have one or more domesticated pet(s) on the premises. No tenant may have more than three pets; each pet is subject to approval and may be declined, as not all residences are suitable for multiple pets. Tenant agrees to pay a non-refundable pet fee for each pet in the household with the exception of service animals utilized by a disabled individual in accordance with Florida Statutes Section 413.08 and Service Animals under ADA Guidelines per 75.Fed. Reg. 56164 (9/15/10) and Section 504 and Fair Housing Act.

B. Pets in the Workplace

- The following guidelines are adopted to continue Stetson University College of Law’s history of being an animal-friendly workplace, while ensuring minimal impact on the faculty or staff member’s position responsibilities and availability to meet the needs of the student body.
 - The pet being brought to campus must fall within the pet categories outlined earlier in this section.
 - Only faculty and staff members with private offices are eligible to bring their pets to campus. Faculty and staff members in shared offices and common spaces are not eligible due to the inability to control visits by those in need of services or who may need access to the workspace.

- Owners are responsible for informing and obtaining their supervisor's approval in advance if they are seeking to bring a pet on campus to make sure there are no concerns.
- Supervisors are responsible for informing co-workers in advance of an employee who will be bringing a new pet to the office to make sure there are no concerns.
- It is the owner's responsibility to take pet out for walks and bathroom breaks. For staff members, breaks should be coordinated with their supervisor and should be consistent with Stetson's policies and practices.
- Faculty and staff members interested in bringing their pet to campus must first obtain all approvals and complete a "Pet Responsibility Waiver" (located on the Human Resources webpage) prior to bringing a pet to campus for the first time. The approval process includes bringing the signed copy to obtain Human Resources' approval and if approved, signage will be issued to the pet owner and the pet will be welcomed to campus. This waiver includes expectations of the pet owner while the pet is on campus.
- If it is determined that a pet is impeding the educational or administrative process, such as impeding interaction between students, faculty and staff or otherwise impacting the work environment or causing medical issues for others, the pet may be disallowed or its presence on campus further restricted.

Acceptable Faculty/Staff Pet Locations

- All areas defined as "animal friendly" within the Animal Owner General Campus Guidelines.
- Owner's private office. Pets are not allowed in classrooms, or in common use areas, including but not limited to conference rooms, rest rooms, break rooms, mail rooms, and copy rooms. When traveling through other common areas, such as hallways, elevators, and the like, pets must be leashed and under control at all times.
- Owners must post the provided signs to caution visitors to expect a pet during the entire duration of the pet's presence in the office.

VI. Reporting Concerns

Any bite or animal incident that involves physical harm must be immediately reported to Public Safety. The Director of Public Safety or designee has the authority to suspend the animal on campus privilege pending investigation of any such incident and will also notify the Office of Human Resources (Gulfport Campus) of any injury. When appropriate, Public Safety may also contact Animal Control to assist in the handling of animal incidents.

It is the goal of the university to encourage any individual who is uncomfortable with a particular animal to be certain his or her needs or feelings are communicated appropriately. Whenever reasonable, these issues should be discussed with the animal owner or reported through www.stetson.edu/reportit. If involving an employee, that concern should be communicated to the Office of Human Resources.

Any Gulfport campus student in violation of this policy may be subject to procedures within the Stetson University College of Law Student Professionalism and Conduct Standards.

Legal References

- [Americans with Disabilities Act, Title I, Employment](#)
- [Americans with Disabilities Act, Title II, State and Local Governments](#)
- [Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504](#)
- [Civil Rights Act of 1968, Title VIII, Fair Housing Act](#)
- [Florida State Statute 413.08](#)

Additional Resources

- [Service Animals and Assistance Animals for People with Disabilities in Housing and HUD-Funded Programs Notice 2013](#)
- Human Resources: <https://connect.stetson.edu/staff-human-resources> -Click Personnel Policies
- Office of Residential Life: <http://www.stetson.edu/law/students/housing>
- Pet Responsibility Waiver: <https://connect.stetson.edu/staff-human-resources> -Click Personnel Policies