

## Guidelines for Animals on Campus - Deland

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 area (e.g. classrooms, offices, food service, etc.) 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 (386) 822-8810 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 Academic Success. 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: Post Office, Locker rooms, Hollis Center Gym, Rinker fieldhouse, Fitness Center or Pool area, Residence Halls that are not pet-friendly, Health Services, Wilson Athletic Center and other athletic training facilities, Counseling Center, Lab rooms/laboratories, 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.

While there is no nationally recognized standard training for service animals, the following linked resource includes a list of standard benchmark commands and behaviors utilized by reputable service animal training organizations

## **A. Owner-Trainers**

Some individuals with disabilities may be training a service animal for personal use. These individuals, herein referred to as “owner-trainers,” must abide by the expectations for service animals in training noted above.

For residential students, service animals in training will be recognized as “assistance animals” under the Fair Housing Act. The student must provide the necessary supporting documentation requested of any assistance animal that is not deemed a fully trained service animal. Once the animal has reached a level where the owner-trainer is able to state confidently that the animal is fully trained, the animal will have the rights and responsibilities of a service animal and no further documentation will be needed.

Owner-trainers are encouraged to consult the animal behavior resource linked above when determining if their animal has moved from “in training” to “fully trained.”

## **B. Trainers with local service organizations**

At the DeLand Campus, the Center for Community Engagement (CCE) and Residential Living and Learning have developed partnerships with local service animal training organizations. Any residential or commuter student on the DeLand campus interested in training a service animal 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. DeLand Campus Residential Students:**

- In accordance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Fair Housing Act, Residential Living and Learning 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 Residential Living and Learning. 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. DeLand Campus Non-residential Students:**

- Academic Success 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 Academic Success
- 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, rabbits, hamsters, gerbils, chinchillas, guinea pigs, hedgehogs, rats, mice, 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 50lbs 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
- Deland campus residential students with approved pets may also access designated pet friendly residential buildings, as authorized by Residential Living and Learning or Facilities Management (if a rental house) including adjacent outdoor areas.

### **B. Pets in the Workplace**

- Except as required by ADA, State or Federal law, or as otherwise addressed elsewhere in this policy, pets being brought into the workplace is not an appropriate work practice due to liability, workers compensation, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issues and exposures.

## 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 Risk Management 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](http://www.stetson.edu/reportit). If involving an employee, that concern should be communicated to the Office of Human Resources.

Any DeLand or Celebration campus student in violation of this policy may be subject to procedures within the Stetson University Code of Community 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](#)
- [Office of Human Resources](#)
- [Stetson University Residential Living and Learning](#)
- [Research Guidelines for Vertebrate Animal Use](#)