Domestic & Companion Animals on University Property Policy

Washington University

In order to provide for the health, safety and welfare of all persons on property owned or controlled by Washington University, the following rules are established to control “Domestic & Companion” animals on University property. This Policy does not apply to animals approved for research by the Animal Studies Committee.

Domestic & Companion animals include those animals that have been tamed and made fit for a human environment as described by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and as required by federal, state and/or local law. The definition of “Domestic and Companion” animal does not include the following: all felines (other than the domestic house cat), nonhuman primates, bears, wolves, coyotes, foxes and venomous reptiles, cattle, horses, goats, mules, sheep, swine, camels, llamas, other livestock animals typically raised on a farm or ranch, geese, ducks, chickens, turkeys, other fowl, any crossbreeds or hybrids of such animals, and any other animal designated by federal, state or local officials as a dangerous animal, nondomestic animal, wild animal, or exotic animal.

No animals, including Domestic & Companion animals, are permitted within buildings on property owned or controlled by Washington University, with the exception of approved service or assistance animals that provide assistance to persons with disabilities or those otherwise approved through the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) in consultation with Human Resources, Office of Disability Resources, Office of the Dean of Students, Residential Life, the Department of Comparative Medicine, and the Office of General Counsel, when appropriate. For additional information on the definition of service and assistance animals and the process for requesting approval for such animals, please visit:

If you are a student: The Office of Disability Resources [http://cornerstone.wustl.edu/disabilityresources.aspx]

If you are a faculty or staff member: The Office of Human Resources [http://hr.wustl.edu]
Domestic & Companion animals are permitted on Washington University grounds but shall not be left unattended. No other animals are permitted onto the grounds of Washington University, except as otherwise approved by the Office of Environmental Health and Safety and any other necessary University offices as specified by EH&S.

Domestic & Companion animals on the grounds of Washington University must be on a leash, rope or lead of not more than six (6) feet in length and held by a responsible person. If a leash or rope is not feasible due to the size or type of animal, the animal must be otherwise contained such that it is not able to roam freely on the grounds.

Any person bringing a Domestic or Companion animal onto the grounds of Washington University shall be responsible for removal of any excrement or feces deposited by the animal, as well as the cleanup of any other waste products or damages done by the animal to Washington University property.

Student group events involving any animals, including Domestic & Companion animals, are not permitted on Washington University grounds.

Policy effective date: November 1, 2000
Policy review and revision date: March 30, 2015

Approved by: The Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Students