

## Policy on Animals on Campus

<b>Policy Title</b>	<b>Policy on Animals on Campus</b>
<b>Policy #</b>	01.104.3
<b>Policy Owner</b>	Vice President for Administration and Finance and Vice President for Student Affairs
<b>Contact Information</b>	Questions regarding this Policy should be directed to the Vice President for Administration and Finance at (401) 874-2433 or the Vice President for Student Affairs at (401) 874-2427
<b>Approved By</b>	Senior Leadership Team
<b>Effective Date</b>	October 27, 2021
<b>Next Review Date</b>	No later than December 31, 2026
<b>Who Needs to Know About this Policy</b>	All University students, employees, Affiliates, and visitors, as well as vendors, contractors, and suppliers on University Property.
<b>Definitions</b>	<p><i>Certain definitions below are based on the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act, 2008; Fair Housing Act [“FHA”], 42 U.S.C. 3604(f), and Rhode Island General Law § 40-9.1-2.1.</i></p> <p><b>Emotional Support Animal.</b> An animal that is necessary to afford a Person with a Disability an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling when there is an identifiable relationship or nexus between the person’s disability and the assistance or support the animal provides.</p> <p><b>Person with a Disability.</b> An individual with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; has a record of such impairment; or is regarded as having such impairment.</p> <p><b>Pet.</b> Any animal, including amphibians, mammals, reptiles, and birds, kept for pleasure or companionship.</p> <p><b>Service Animal.</b> A dog, or in certain circumstances a miniature horse, specifically trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of and to accommodate the functional needs of a Person with a Disability. This includes an animal that is in training to become a Service Animal. The provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship does not constitute work or tasks for the purpose of defining a Service Animal.</p> <p><b>University Affiliate.</b> Any individual who is not a faculty member, staff, or student who otherwise has a formal relationship with the University, including but not limited to visiting scholars, visiting students, research fellows, professional program participants, club sports coaches, and volunteers as well as employees and associates of the URI Foundation and Alumni Engagement, URI Research Foundation, and members of the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees.</p>

	<b>University Property.</b> Property belonging to the State of Rhode Island and held in trust by the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees; property held by the University of Rhode Island or any of its component units in its own name; and property owned by third parties but assigned to, occupied by, or managed by the University or any of its component units.
<b>Statutes, Regulations, and Policies Governing or Necessitating This Policy</b>	42 U.S.C. 3604(f) (Fair Housing Act ["FHA"]) RIGL § 40-9.1-2.1 URI Policy on Reasonable Accommodations for Employees with Disabilities Documentation Guidelines (URI Office of Disability, Access, and Inclusion)
<b>Reason for Policy/Purpose</b>	To protect the safety and health of University of Rhode Island students, employees, Affiliates, and visitors; to maintain a professional and clean environment in which to work, study, conduct research, and visit; to protect the integrity of research activities; and to promote the welfare and safety of animals.
<b>Forms Related to this Policy</b>	None

## Policy Statement

For reasons of safety, liability, health, and sanitation, no animals of any type are allowed in any building on University Property, with the following exceptions:

1. Service Animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment of 2008 and the Department of Justice, Office of Civil Rights.
2. An approved Emotional Support Animal. An approved Emotional Support Animal is permitted as a reasonable accommodation to accompany a student with a qualifying disability within their assigned residence in accordance with the eligibility criteria based on the relevant provisions of the Fair Housing Act ("FHA"), 42 U.S.C. 3604(f) and regulatory guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
3. Approved research animals as used in accordance with the guidelines of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).
4. Agricultural animals used in teaching.
5. Animals professionally trained for theatrical purposes and directly supervised by show personnel within a controlled environment during performances or rehearsals.
6. Animals professionally trained for search and rescue activities or law enforcement while on duty.
7. Service Dogs in training accompanied by a qualified training handler, under RIGL § 40-9.1-2.1.
8. Trained therapy dogs supervised by mental health specialists in clinical healthcare settings.
9. Within Residence Hall Director Apartments within guidelines set forth by Housing and Residential Life.
10. University employees required to reside on-campus in residential housing (e.g., the President's House).
11. Animals used as a therapeutic component of an occasional, authorized University event designed to aid the University community with regards to stress reduction.
12. In certain circumstances, the Vice President for Administration and Finance may grant a written exception to this policy to meet a bona fide University business or programmatic purpose.

### **Animals on University Grounds**

No animals of any type are allowed in any building on University Property, barring the exceptions noted above. All animals on University grounds must be under the control of their owners. Animals that are walked on campus must be kept on a leash and in no circumstance may animals be allowed to run loose. In order to protect the health and safety of others, owners must dispose of an animal's fecal matter into a proper disposal container. Animals may not be tethered to buildings, handrails, trees, bicycle racks, or other objects. Any animal found wandering loose on campus or tethered to University Property and left unattended may be impounded at the owner's expense or reported to local authorities. Animals left in an unattended motor vehicle are subject to the same rules and regulations if the animal becomes a nuisance or if the welfare of the animal is threatened. Any infractions or complaints should be directed to URI Public Safety at (401) 874-2121.

### **Service Animals**

The University of Rhode Island recognizes the ability of persons with documented disabilities to utilize Service Animals, as defined by the Department of Justice-Civil Rights Division, on University Property. Employees, students, Affiliates, vendors, contractors performing work for the University, and visitors do not need to request the University's permission to bring Service Animals onto University Property. However, the University encourages students to notify the Office of Disability, Access, and Inclusion, and employees to notify Personnel Services in the Office of Human Resources, when bringing a Service Animal to campus to determine if any additional accommodations are needed.

The University may request evidence of the animal's current state registration and proper vaccination. In addition, an individual may be asked if the animal is needed because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to perform.

Emotional Support Animals and Pets are not considered Service Animals. In addition, Emotional Support Animals are not approved accommodations for University employees, except those employees residing on campus (see below).

### **Emotional Support Animals for Students Residing on Campus**

Students who reside on University Property and who wish to bring an Emotional Support Animal into that residence as an accommodation for a documented disability must obtain prior accommodation approval from the Office of Disability, Access, and Inclusion. Eligibility criteria are based primarily on the relevant provisions of the Fair Housing Act ("FHA"), 42 U.S.C. 3604(f) and regulatory guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Housing & Development in its Final Rule entitled "Pet Ownership for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities" published in the Federal register on October 27, 2008 (73 FR 63834).

Once approval is granted for a housing/residence accommodation, the Emotional Support Animal must remain in the owner's assigned space and may not be taken into other University of Rhode Island buildings or into common areas within the resident's building. Please see further information on Emotional Support Animal accommodations at the Office of Disability, Access, and Inclusion website as well as in the Student Handbook for applicable rules on animals in residential halls.

Pets are not considered Emotional Support Animals per the Fair Housing Act ("FHA"), 42 U.S.C. 3604(f).

**Pets and Emotional Support Animals for Employees Residing on Campus**

Employees who are required or permitted to live on University Property (Hall Directors, University President, employees with short-term, transitional living arrangements) are permitted to have Emotional Support Animals and Pets on University Property, including within a residence, but must abide by all other terms of this policy related to animal control, sanitation, and building access restrictions. Allowable Emotional Support Animals and Pets may not be brought into buildings other than the assigned residence, including into any interior common building space. Employees residing in residences controlled by Housing and Residential Life must but follow the appropriate HRL application process and abide by any internal guidance or rules established by Housing and Residential Life.

**Exceptions**

Persons residing in buildings under the control of Housing and Residential Life may be allowed small animals, generally fish, per that unit’s internal guidelines and rules. Employees residing in temporary living arrangements under the control of Housing and Residential Life must follow, in addition to the terms of this policy, any internal guidelines and rules regarding animals set by that office.

**Policy Review and Revisions**

(Versions earlier than the first policy number may be paper only)

<b>Policy #</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Reason for Change</b>	<b>Changes to Policy</b>
01.104.1	November 7, 2017	n/a	n/a
01.104.2	July 20, 2021	Scheduled Review	Ministerial changes for clarity and administrative updates.
01.104.3	October 27, 2021	Requested addition of exception #11 and clarification of HRL guidelines.	Exception #11 added; Exception regarding HRL guidelines added.