

Policy on Animals on Campus

Policy Title	Policy on Animals on Campus
Policy #	01.104.1
Policy Owner	Vice President for Administration and Finance and Vice President for Student Affairs
Contact Information	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
Approved By	Senior Leadership Team
Effective Date	November 7, 2017
Next Review Date	No later than December 31, 2020
Who Needs to Know About this Policy	All University faculty, staff, students, and visitors
Definitions	<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, as previously cited herein</i></p> <p>Emotional Support Animal. 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>Person with a Disability. 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>Pet. Any animal, including amphibians, mammals, reptiles and birds kept for pleasure or companionship.</p> <p>Service Animal. 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. For further information, visit: http://web.uri.edu/disability/definitions-disability-related-animals/ and Department of Justice, Office of Civil Rights.</p> <p>Service Dog in Training. A dog undergoing training by a handler who is an agent of an organization generally recognized by agencies involved in the rehabilitation of persons who are disabled as reputable and competent to provide training for assistance animals, and/or their handlers.</p>

	University of Rhode Island Building. University of Rhode Island Building. Any building or portion of a building under the control of the University of Rhode Island or its affiliates, i.e., space occupied by the University of Rhode Island or its affiliates whether held by the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees in trust for the State of Rhode Island, or owned by a third party.
Statutes, Regulations, and Policies Governing or Necessitating This Policy	42 U.S.C. 3604(f) (Fair Housing Act ["FHA"]) Rhode Island General Law § 40-9.1-2.1 URI Policy on Reasonable Accommodations for Employees with Disabilities Accommodations Guidelines (URI Disability Services for Students)
Reason for Policy/Purpose	To protect the safety and health of University of Rhode Island students, employees 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. The policy prohibits all types of animals from University of Rhode Island Buildings except for service animals, research animals, and other specific exceptions provided for in the policy.
Forms Related to this Policy	None

Policy Statement

For reasons of safety, liability, health and sanitation, no animals of any type are allowed in any University of Rhode Island Building with the following exceptions:

- Service Animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment of 2008, and the Department of Justice, Office of Civil Rights for use by faculty, staff, and students. The University of Rhode Island recognizes the ability of persons with documented disabilities to utilize Service Animals (generally dogs) as defined by the Department of Justice-Civil Rights Division (see <http://web.uri.edu/disability/service-animals-policies>). Faculty, staff, and students are strongly encouraged to reach out to Disability Services for Students or Personnel Services to ensure they are informed of all the services the University can provide to individuals with disabilities on campus. Faculty, staff, and students must provide evidence of both state registration and proper vaccination of the animal.
- An approved Emotional Support Animal is permitted as a reasonable accommodation to accompany a student with a qualifying disability into 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. However, an Emotional Support Animal is not allowed to accompany a student into any other University of Rhode Island Building. Student residents who require an Emotional Support Animal must obtain approval from the Office of Disability Services for this accommodation prior to bringing the animal into their residence. Please see Emotional Support Animal accommodation policy and procedures here: <http://web.uri.edu/disability/esa/>; please also refer to the Student Handbook and the Residential Life Office for applicable policies on animals in residential halls.
- Approved research animals as used in accordance with the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

- Agricultural animals used in teaching.
- Animals professionally trained for theatrical purposes and directly supervised by show personnel within a controlled environment during performances or rehearsals.
- Animals professionally trained for search and rescue activities or law enforcement while on duty.
- Service Dogs in Training accompanied by a qualified training handler. (Provisions under Rhode Island General Law § 40-9.1-2.1 allow qualified training handlers the same rights as a Person with a Disability using an individually trained service dog.)
- Trained therapy dogs supervised by mental health specialists during official therapy sessions.
- Residence Hall Director Apartments within the guidelines set forth by HRL.
- University employees required to reside on-campus in residential housing (e.g. the President's House).

Animals on University Grounds

Animals on University grounds (i.e. not in a University of Rhode Island Building) must be under the control of their owners. In no circumstance may animals be allowed to run loose. Animals that are walked on campus must be kept on a leash. In order to protect the health and safety of others, fecal matter must be removed to a proper disposal container by the animal's owner. Animals may not be tethered to buildings, handrails, trees, bicycle racks, or other objects. Any animal found tethered to University property and left unattended or wandering loose on campus 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 they become 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 for University Employees

Employees, affiliates, and all others performing work for the University do not need to request the University's permission to bring Service Animals onto University property. However, an individual must notify Disability Services for Students or Personnel Services prior to bringing the animal to the workplace to determine if any additional accommodations are needed to have a Service Animal in the workplace and to provide evidence of state registration and proper vaccination. The 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. Employee Pets and Emotional Support Animals are not considered Service Animals. Please refer to: U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, guidance document on SERVICE ANIMALS. Employees needing disability-related accommodations are asked to review URI's Policy on Reasonable Accommodations for Employees with Disabilities and Documentation Guidelines (URI Disability Services for Students) for more information.

Emotional Support Animals for University Employees

Employees who reside in a University of Rhode Island Building and who wish to bring an Emotional Support Animal into that residence as an accommodation for a disability must obtain prior accommodation approval from Personnel Services who will consult with the URI Accommodation Committee for final approval. These 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).

For more information, please review URI's Policy on Reasonable Accommodations for Employees with Disabilities and Documentation Guidelines (URI Disability Services for Students).

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

Exceptions

None beyond those noted above.

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