

Pets on Campus Directive

Objectives

The University of Ottawa is committed to providing an attractive, clean and safe campus. To that end, the University of Ottawa recognizes the following:

- Not all members of our community feel comfortable in the presence of pets;
- The health of a number of members of our community is compromised by the presence of certain pets;
- Despite precautions taken by responsible and respectful pet owners such as: careful and proper preparation, instruction, medical advice, conditioning and equipment; there is a possibility of injury when pets interact with our community.

To assist in the achievement of these objectives, the University of Ottawa will regulate the presence of pets on campus.

Definitions:

Pet: any domesticated or tamed animal that is kept as a companion or treated as a pet

Pet Owner: Person caring for, having custody of, or responsibility for a pet.

Service Animal: *Service animals are working animals, not pets.* An animal trained by a recognized school for service as a guide dog for the blind or visually-impaired, a guide dog for the deaf or hearing-impaired, or a special skills dog for other disabled persons and includes an animal used in therapy, registered with a recognized organization for that purpose. This includes but is not limited to therapy dogs, seeing-eye or hearing ear cats, police dogs or service monkeys. .

Research animal – *A research animal is not a pet.* A research animal is a live animal taking part in an experimental process or project that is inspected and/or approved by the University of Ottawa's Animal Care Committee.

Application / Scope

This directive applies to all University employees, students, contractors, visitors and their pets. This directive does not apply to service animals or to animals housed in laboratory areas for research purposes. Pets in University residences are covered by the terms and conditions of existing occupancy agreements.

Restrictions / General:

The University restricts the presence of pets in University buildings and on campus grounds in order to maintain sanitation and health regulations as well as to reduce the risk of personal injury.

1. Pets are not permitted in University-owned, leased or rented buildings.
2. Campus lawns and gardens are an extension of our classrooms and are important relaxation spaces for the campus community. Pets are not permitted to run loose on campus. Pets being taken across campus should be properly licensed under the appropriate municipal by-law and restrained by means of a leash or other control at all times. Every pet owner shall immediately remove any feces left by the pet.
3. It is not permissible to tie and leave a pet anywhere unattended on University of Ottawa property for any period of time. Pets may not be confined in vehicles parked on campus due to the danger this

Pets on Campus Directive

presents to the pets. In the event of endangerment, please report the vehicle's location and license plate number to Protection Services at extension 5411 or at (613) 562-5411.

4. Stray pets or those left unattended will be removed by the City of Ottawa Animal Control unit. Any costs incurred in the removal or retrieval of a pet shall be responsibility of the owner.

Exceptions

This directive does not apply to *service animals*.

This directive does not apply to *research animals* on campus as outlined in University of Ottawa Policy no. 31.

This directive does not apply to private areas of Residences, which are subject to the terms of the Residence Agreements.

In *special circumstances*, approval may be obtained from the Office of Risk Management to bring pets on campus for a special event involving the display or demonstration of specialized skills or natural behaviours.

Other than the foregoing, no exceptions may be made to this directive.

Interpretation

The Director of the Office of Risk Management is responsible for the interpretation of this directive. Any questions regarding the implementation of this directive should be directed to the Office of Risk Management, Environment and Health and Safety at (613) 562-5892 or extension 5892 on campus.

Enforcement / Consequences

This directive will be enforced by Protection Services with assistance from the City of Ottawa as appropriate. Violations of this directive may result in warnings, fines, or requests for immediate removal of the pet from the campus.

Persons bringing pets on campus will be held responsible for any costs or consequences of any damage caused by their pet and may be subject to discipline as warranted and appropriate under the circumstances.

References

1. [City of Ottawa Animal Care and Control By-Law No. 2003-77](#)
2. [Policy 31: Policy on Animals Used in Research and Teaching at the University of Ottawa](#)
3. [Residence Agreement \(see part 5\)](#)

Revised February 6, 2009