

STATEMENT OF POLICY

Animals are not allowed in any academic building or residence hall or on any land that comprises university premises. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, cats, dogs, snakes, turtles, birds, hamsters, mice, and other rodents. The presence of pets may constitute real or perceived health threats to others, especially in confined or closed spaces. In addition, the presence of a pet in an area may distract or disrupt certain activities, constitute a danger to safety and security, or may create a nuisance, including the nuisance caused by pet waste or damage to property.

Animals used by disabled individuals as service animals are not pets and may be allowed on campus, in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (“Rehab Act”), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“ADA”), and state law. Therapy animals are typically family pets that are trained and registered through therapy organizations. Therapy animals are not considered service animals under ADA and are therefore not allowed on campus.

A. Requirements for Service Animals

Service animals are animals that are individually trained to work or perform tasks for people with disabilities, including, but not limited to, guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling wheelchairs, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, or performing other special tasks.

The care and supervision of a service animal is the responsibility of the person using the animal's services (hereinafter “owner”). The owner must ensure that the animal is in good health and has been vaccinated against diseases common to that type of animal as recommended by the American Veterinary Medical Association. For example, dogs should have routine maintenance for flea and tick prevention, de-worming, and have annual examinations.

Service dogs must wear a rabies tag. [NC Rabies Law-N.C. Gen. Stat. § 130A-185]. If an animal other than a dog is to be used as a service animal, the Director of Health and Safety, ADA Coordinator, or Student Services must approve the health requirements regarding that animal.

The owner must keep the service animal on a leash/lead when the animal is in a public area (i.e. classroom, library, common area of a residence hall, outdoors on campus), unless the service animal is required to perform a task that it could not accomplish while

on a leash/lead or the owner is otherwise unable to maintain the animal on a leash/lead due to a disability; in such case the owner still must be able to maintain control over the animal. The owner does not need to keep the service animal on a leash/lead in private areas assigned to the owner (i.e. the owner's office or residence hall room) or private areas assigned to a third party if the third party consents to the animal being off leash/lead.

The owner must be in full control of the animal at all times.

The owner is responsible for the cost to repair any damage done by the service animal to university property.

Persons in need of service or assistive animals should contact the appropriate American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Service Coordinator and Residence Life Personnel.

B. Areas Restricted to Service Animals:

WSSU may prohibit the use of service animals in certain locations due to health or safety restrictions, where service animals may be in danger, or where their use may compromise the integrity of certain research. Such restricted locations include, but are not limited to, food preparation areas, certain research laboratories, mechanical rooms/custodial closets, wood/metal/machine shops, nuclear research areas, classrooms with demonstration/research animals, areas where protective clothing is necessary, and/or other areas where the animal's presence may constitute a danger or a fundamental alteration of the program or activity conducted in the area. Access to restricted areas may be granted on a case-by-case basis by contacting the appropriate department and/or laboratory representative, Disability Services Coordinator and/or the ADA Coordinator. WSSU will pursue an interactive process to determine whether or not admission of the service animal will be granted or denied. The person directing the work in the restricted area will make the final decision regarding access based on the nature of the activities occurring in the area and the best interest of the animal.

C. Conflicting Disabilities:

If another person on campus has a covered disability under the ADA and it includes an allergic reaction to animals, and that person has contact with a service animal approved for presence on campus, a request for assistance will be made to the Disability Services Coordinator who will consider all facts surrounding the contact and make an effort to resolve the issue.

D. Penalties:

Pets on campus or service animals in violation of this policy may be subject to apprehension and impounding. Violators of this policy may also be charged with any other applicable violation of the WSSU Code of Student Conduct or an appropriate

policy governing university employees. Owners of such impounded animals are responsible for any fees or fines that may subsequently be assessed by the city or county.

The university has the authority to remove a service animal from its grounds or facilities if the service animal becomes unruly or disruptive, unclean, and/or unhealthy to the extent that the animal's behavior or condition poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others or otherwise causes a fundamental alteration in the university's services, programs, or activities. If such behavior or condition persists, the owner may be directed not to bring the animal into public campus areas until the problem is rectified.

E. Appeals:

In the event of a dispute about an accommodation relating to a service animal, or an animal restriction, a complaining party, who is a member of the university community (i.e. student, EPA employee, SPA employee) may file a formal grievance through the established grievance procedure applicable to that classification of individual. All others should contact the Office for Equal Opportunity to file a complaint.

F. Application of Policy:

This Policy applies to all WSSU Faculty, Staff, and Students.

Effective Date: This policy becomes effective upon adoption of Board of Trustees.

Adopted: This 19th day of June, 2009

Nigel D. Alston
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Winston-Salem State University

Martin B. Davis
Secretary, Board of Trustees
Winston-Salem State University