

Pets on Campus

Category: Operations

Approval: PVP

Responsibility: Department of Risk Management

Date initially approved: May 30, 2016

Date of last revision: March 1, 2018

Definitions:

Pets: Any animal not prohibited by the municipality in which Trent property is located. The term 'pet' does not include service and support animals or animals used in teaching and research where approved by the University's Animal Care Committee.

Safekeeping: The provision of such security in order to prevent an animal from attacking or injuring a person or another animal, causing psychological or mental harm to a person or another animal or exposing such person or animal to infection or disease, and also includes the provision of an environment wherein the animal cannot be injured or infected by the enclosure or restraint. In addition, the said enclosure or restraint shall not cause psychological or mental harm to the animal, which shall be ascertained by the distress caused to the animal in the said enclosure, so determined by a veterinarian or other animal care expert.

Service Animals: Any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained by an accredited service animal organization to provide assistance to an individual with a disability.

Support Animals: Any animal required to support an individual with a medical or mental health issue as determined by an accredited diagnosing health professional such as a physician, neurologist, audiologist, ophthalmologist, psychologist, psychiatrist, neuropsychologist or other medical specialist who is authorized to provide a clinical diagnosis.

Purpose/Reason for Policy:

Trent University is committed to providing a safe, healthy and hygienic environment. Accordingly, this policy is intended to limit potential hazards and ensure pets brought on campus are properly controlled so that they do not pose a health or safety risk to any person or disrupt the operations of the University.

Scope of this Policy:

This policy applies to all persons on property owned, leased or rented by Trent University including Symons campus, Traill campus, Trent Durham, the Windy Pine property and the Oliver Ecological Centre.

On campus apartments covered by the Residential Tenancies Act are exempt from this policy.

This policy does not apply to service or support animals.

Policy Statement:

Pet owners wishing to bring their animal onto campus assume full responsibility for safekeeping, controlling and cleaning up after their animals at all times. Pet owners are expected to respect the rights of others to engage in on-campus activities without disruption in a safe and healthy environment. Accordingly, pets are not permitted in Trent residences, libraries, classrooms, laboratories or food service areas. Animals that have injured or threatened the safety of any person will not be permitted on campus.

Costs, including costs for overtime spent by caretaking to clean indoor spaces in which pets are kept, legal costs and damages arising from civil liability claims due to non-compliance with this policy, shall be the pet owner's responsibility.

In special circumstances, approval may be obtained from the Director, Risk Management and the responsible Department head for pets or other animals to be brought into residences, libraries, classrooms or food service areas for an event involving the display or demonstration of specialized skills or natural behaviours. Pets are not permitted in laboratories.

Responsibilities:

Pet owners are responsible to ensure that:

- Pets on campus are to be leashed and/or kept under the physical control of their owner at all times and not left unattended on university property.
- Pet excrement is immediately picked up, bagged and placed in an appropriate outdoor waste receptacle and messes caused by animals in indoor spaces are promptly cleaned up.
- Pets brought on campus have up to date rabies and core inoculations as determined by the Ontario Veterinary Medicine Association, are free of disease and pests and are tagged and licensed in accordance with municipal bylaws. Owners must produce inoculation documentation when requested by their supervisor or Campus Security.
- Pets do not disrupt the work, study or activities of others on campus.
- Their pet is removed immediately when the owner is directed to do so by their supervisor or Campus Security due to health, safety or disruption issues.

University supervisors, managers and unit heads are responsible for the enforcement of this policy in their work units and may direct a pet owner to remove their animal from the workplace if there are health and safety or workplace disruption concerns. Instructors are responsible for the enforcement of this policy in their classrooms and laboratories.

Campus Security is responsible to enforce this policy on all Trent grounds and will assist supervisors and instructors with the enforcement of this policy as necessary.

Contact Officer:

Environmental Health and Safety Officer

Date for Next Review:

March 2023

Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

- a) Accommodation of Students with Disabilities
- b) Accommodation of Employees with Disabilities Health and Safety Policy

Policies Superseded by This Policy:

- a) Nil