

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY

A Member of the Texas State University System

SRSU Policy: Animals on Campus Policy

SRSU Policy ID: APM 2.29

Policy Reviewed by: University Department of Public Safety

Approval Authority: Executive Cabinet

Approval Date: June 18, 2015

Next Review Date: June 18, 2020

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide for the health and safety of Sul Ross State University students, faculty, staff, and visitors and for the protection of SRSU property by establishing guidelines for the presence of animals on campus. Animals on campus can pose sanitary and health related problems to the campus community that could cause fear, allergies disease transmission, excessive noise, animal bites, and property damage. Individuals with a disability that require the use of a service animal are at particular risk.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all university-controlled properties, including all athletic facilities.

DEFINITIONS

A. University-controlled property –Property that is owned, leased, operated, and/or maintained by SRSU.

B. Service Animal-Service animals is defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act as any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items. For purposes of this policy, police K-9s are considered a service animal as well as other animals that work for emergency personnel.

C. Research and Teaching Animals-Approved animals used directly in support of SRSU's mission of teaching, research, and or clinical programs.

D. Comfort Animal – Approved animal used by on-campus residents as defined by HUD Fair Housing Act to provide comfort in certain circumstances to a person with a documented disability as a reasonable accommodation via the appropriate medical documentation.

PERMITTED ANIMALS ON UNIVERSITY-CONTROLLED PROPERTY

- Campus Grounds: Domesticated pets (dogs, cats, birds) are permitted outside on campus grounds when leashed, caged or otherwise secured, and properly attended at all times. Anyone observed by the University Department of Public Safety having a dog or domesticated pet on campus must sign a waiver and release accepting responsibility for the domesticated pets' actions including attacks and property damage. The University reserves the right to require the individual with a leashed or otherwise secured domesticated pet to present the waiver as well as documentation from a veterinarian that the pet is in good health, has appropriate immunizations, and is in compliance with all applicable state and local health laws, especially in the case of a medical emergency such as an animal bite.
- Responsibility, removal & behavior of permitted animal
 - Pets must not disrupt others (i.e. noise, odor, squawking, excessive barking, etc.).
 - Pet owners are responsible for cleaning up mess made by their pet and must display evidence of the proper equipment for such cleaning. Anyone who brings a pet on university-controlled property assumes all financial responsibility for any damages to property or injury to individuals caused by the animal.
 - A pet may be removed from University property for violation of this policy at the discretion of the University Department of Public Safety. The University Department of Public Safety

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- and the Associate Vice President for University Services and Dean of Students has final say in the revocation of permitted animals on campus privileges.
- Pets may not be tethered to University buildings, structures, motor vehicles, trees, railings, light poles, benches, posts, or other structures.
 - **Buildings:** Animals, including domesticated pets, are not permitted inside any university-controlled building or stadium, except for those service type or comfort animals that are specifically exempted by this policy.
 - **Residence Halls:** Students residing in residence halls are not permitted to have animals, with exception of fish in the maximum of a 10 gallon aquarium, inside the residence hall or as permitted in the Comfort Animal Policy APM 2.30.
 - **Special Events:** Animals are not allowed (leashed or unleashed) at any special events or University functions with the exception of any specific event that has been approved for pets in advance by the University Department of Public Safety and the Associate Vice President for University Services and Dean of Students.

PROHIBITED ANIMALS ON UNIVERSITY-CONTROLLED PROPERTY

- **Undomesticated and/or dangerous animals in the wild:** Animals such as but not limited to poisonous reptiles, constricting snakes, wolves, and any other potentially dangerous or aggressive animals are prohibited from all University-controlled property (inside and outside) at all times, except research and teaching animals.
- **Aggressive Dogs:** Dogs with a history of aggressiveness or an observed display of aggressive behavior are prohibited from all University-owned property. Any University Department of Public Safety officer has the authority to make a determination as to whether or not such a dog on campus falls under this category.
- **Stray animals:** It is the desire of the University for stray animals to be treated humanely. Due to the potential danger of rabies, and in compliance with municipal and state laws regarding licensing and the care and control of animals, feeding of stray animals is not permitted. This allows for greater control of the animal population, including but not limited to skunks, bats, raccoons, foxes, javelinas, wild pigs, or stray dogs and cats, and will better provide for the health and safety of the SRSU community. Stray animals should be reported to the University Department of Public Safety at 432-837-8100 for removal of the animal with the assistance of the City of Alpine Animal Control.

FAILURE TO COMPLY

- **Prohibited Animals:** Prohibited animals on university-controlled property must be removed immediately. If a prohibited animal is observed on university-controlled property, the owner may face disciplinary measures by appropriate authorities or departments which include Campus Police, Human Resources, and the Associate Vice President for University Services and Dean of Students.
- **Unattended or Unrestrained Animals:** If an unrestrained/unattended animal is observed, a reasonable attempt will be made to locate the animal's owner. If the owner is located, he/she may face disciplinary measures by the appropriate office which includes Campus Police, the Human Resource Department, and the Associate Vice President for University Services and Dean of Students. If attempts to find the animal's owner are unsuccessful, the City of Alpine Animal Control will be contacted for removal of the animal from University-controlled property.
- **Property Damage or Personal Injury:** The University will seek restitution for any animal-related damage to University-controlled property, facilities, or grounds, or injury to any person. The repair or replacement cost of damaged property or expenses in connection with a personal injury

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is the sole responsibility of the owner of the animal that caused the damage. Additionally, owners must remove and dispose of pet waste in a sanitary manner in accordance with City of Alpine Ordinance No. 2008-11-01§ 1, 1-6-09 Sec.10-42.

EXEMPTED PETS AND OTHER ANIMALS

The animals listed below are permitted inside University-controlled property:

- Service animals (see below for more detail)
- Comfort animal per the Comfort Animal Policy
- Research and Teaching animals
- Domestic pets owned by the executive administration that maintain a permanent residence on campus and are on call at all times.
- In accordance with the Residential Living Handbook, only fish in the maximum of a 10-gallon aquarium, comfort animals and service animals are allowed in the residence halls or any University housing.

Although these animals are permitted within the buildings, the animal must remain under the control of the owner at all times. The care or supervision of an exempted animal is solely the responsibility of the owner. SRSU reserves the right to exclude an exempted animal whose behavior poses a threat to the health or safety of others.

- **Service Animals**
 - Service animals are permitted on University-controlled property and in University buildings while they are performing tasks for the individual they accompany.
 - Any animal being used as a service animal inside any University-controlled building should wear a harness or other identifying device to identify it as a service animal.
 - In order for Human Resources (for employees) and the Student Life office (for students) to help facilitate the use of a service animal on campus, the employee or student using a service animal inside any University-controlled building must notify in advance the respective office of the need to use a service animal. Visitors wishing to utilize a service animal or discuss usage of service animals on the campus are directed to contact the University Department of Public Safety. The University Department of Public Safety will investigate any complaint that a service animal is disruptive or threatening. If it is determined that the animal is disruptive or threatening and acting outside the appropriate scope of its duties as a service animal, the individual will be instructed to remove the animal until the individual produces appropriate documentation indicating that sufficient training has taken place to bring the animal under control.
 - The University reserves the right to require the individual to present documentation from the individual's health care provider as well as from a veterinarian that the service animal is in good health and has current and up-to-date immunization records and is in compliance with all applicable state and local health laws. The individual may be asked to present updated documentation annually. The University reserves the right to request documentation that the animal has been trained to act as a service animal.
 - The individual with the service animal takes full responsibility for the needs and behavior of the animal. Animal waste must be picked up and disposed of properly.

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REPORTING

To report a violation of this policy or for general questions (report a problem with an animal on campus, such as unattended animal, an injury or property damage in connection with an animal on campus), please contact the University Department of Public Safety at 432-837-8100.