

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

Animals on Vanderbilt University Campus

Approval Authority: Vice Chancellor for Administration and
Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Originally issued:
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Responsible Administrator: Assistant Vice Chancellor, Plant Operations

Current version
effective as of:
July 2023

Responsible Office: Plant Operations

Policy Contact: Assistant Vice Chancellor, Plant Operations

POLICY STATEMENT/REASON FOR POLICY

It is the policy of Vanderbilt University to only allow animals that meet the requirements of this policy on campus grounds or inside University buildings.

It is the policy of Vanderbilt University to comply with all laws, regulations, and local ordinances; to ensure the health and safety of the Vanderbilt community; to prevent disruption to the educational environment and Vanderbilt's research activities; to preserve the integrity of its grounds, buildings, and other property; and to ensure a campus environment that respects the rights of all individuals.

This policy promotes a learning and research environment and workplace that minimizes health and safety risks to members of the campus community. Individuals with certain respiratory diseases or who are allergic to animals can suffer adverse health effects when exposed to animals or animal dander or saliva. Buildings with recirculating ventilation systems may transmit allergens from one area to another and individuals could inadvertently be exposed. Non-research animals can transmit diseases or parasites to research animals. Restriction of companion animals and non-research animals is especially critical in research facilities (e.g., buildings with laboratories) due to the sensitive nature of the operations and the regulatory restrictions imposed on certain research labs. Non-research animals, particularly companion animals, whether trained or untrained, may also be disruptive, pose safety or sanitation risks to visitors and the campus community, and potentially violate local ordinances.

With respect to campus grounds, companion animals may be disruptive or hazardous and violate local ordinances. Waste from animals on campus grounds is unsanitary and disruptive to other visitors and members of the Vanderbilt community.

THIS POLICY APPLIES TO:

This policy applies to all Vanderbilt faculty, staff, students and visitors who enjoy the use of the Vanderbilt campus and its facilities. Vanderbilt faculty, staff, and students using Vanderbilt

University Medical Center (VUMC) facilities also are subject to VUMC's Animals in VUMC Buildings Policy, which sets forth similar restrictions.

DEFINITIONS

Companion Animal or Pet: Any animal that is not being used in research, used to assist a person with a disability, or a working animal such as a police dog is considered a pet or companion animal for purposes of this policy.

Service Animal: An animal that meets the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) definition of Service animal in that it is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.

Emotional Support Animal (ESA): An emotional support animal is any animal that provides emotional support, well-being, or companionship that alleviates or mitigates symptoms of an individual's disability. The animal need not be individually trained. Emotional support animals are not limited to dogs and can be other species of animal. Emotional support animals are not considered service animals.

POLICY

Animals in Campus Buildings and Facilities

Animals are not permitted inside any Vanderbilt University campus building or facility (on or off site), with limited exceptions as listed below:

Exceptions:

- Service Animals used to assist persons with disabilities, as defined by law;
- Emotional Support Animals (ESAs) when approved by the Vanderbilt University Equal Opportunity and Access Office (EOA) or Student Access (SA) and restricted to those areas for which they have been approved;
- Animals used in research covered by the Animal Care and Use Program (ACUP) and overseen by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC);
- On-duty K-9 police dogs under the control of Vanderbilt University Public Safety (VUPS), Metro Nashville Police Department (MNPd), or other law enforcement officers;
- Animals specifically approved under the Vanderbilt University Pet Policy for Live-in Employees;
- Aquarium animals limited to fish, with an established aquarium maintenance program;
- Third party therapy (or other) animal organizations or activity brought to campus for a specific short term special event that has been approved by Risk Management and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM)/VUPS and include completed pet owner or organization contractual agreements;
- Rare additional exceptions require Vice Chancellor approval.

Companion Animals on Campus Grounds

Companion Animals are permitted on campus grounds only if they:

- Are under the control and custody of the owner or their designee;

- Are not aggressive;
- Do not interfere with the use of the grounds by others; and
- Do not defecate on any sidewalks, walking paths, or paved areas.

If Permitted by Exception in a Building and When on Campus Grounds, the Following Applies:

- Dogs must be in compliance with local ordinances requiring dogs to be in the full control of the owner by leash or cord.
- Dogs used to assist persons with disabilities must also be in the full control of the handler and must be on a leash or cord unless either the handler is unable to use the tether because of a disability or being tethered would interfere with safe and effective performance of work or tasks.
- Dogs may urinate or defecate only in dirt and grass areas other than those areas where members of the community may walk or congregate.
- All dogs must be properly licensed and vaccinated and must wear the appropriate tags.
- The dog owner or designee is required to properly dispose of solid waste by bagging it and placing it in an appropriate trash receptacle.

PROCEDURES

- A. Employee Disability Accommodation: Employees should contact the EOA for questions regarding disability accommodations relating to service animals.
- B. Student Disability Accommodation: Students should contact Student Access to request disability accommodations relating to assistance animals.
- C. Violations of this Policy with respect to animals in campus buildings may be reported to the employee’s supervisor, the Office of Emergency Management, Division of Occupational Safety and Health, the Office of Risk and Insurance Management, or the anonymous compliance reporting hotline.
- D. Violations of this Policy with respect to animals on campus grounds may be reported to Vanderbilt University Public Safety.
- E. Visitors with questions about bringing service animals to campus should contact the EOA.
- F. Animals brought to campus as part of a special event on campus as discussed in the Exceptions section must be approved and contracted with a third party.

REPORTING CONCERNS:

Subject	Contact/Position	Office
Immediate concerns regarding hostile or aggressive animals on campus	Vanderbilt University Public Safety	Emergency 911 or VU Emergency (615) 421-1911 VUPD Non-Emergency Line (615) 322-2745
Non-Compliance Reporting of students	Student Accountability	General Incident Reporting https://www.vanderbilt.edu/studentaccountability/policies-procedures

Non-Compliance Reporting of employees or guests	Risk Management	VU Compliance Reporting Hotline www.vanderbiltcompliancehotline.ethicspoint.com ; (844) 814-5935
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CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE

Violation of this policy may result in the full range of disciplinary actions set forth in university policies governing students, staff, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty. Owners of Service or Emotional Support animals exhibiting hostile or disruptive behavior in any location may be asked to remove their animal from the building or grounds. Regardless of designation, the owner of any animal exhibiting specific behavior which endangers the safety of others in any environment should remove the animal immediately and is required to follow the requests of others to remove the animal.

Dogs in violation of Metro Nashville Government ordinances may be removed from campus and seized by Metro Health or Police departments and their owners may be subject to fines. Visitors to campus are subject to this policy and may be asked to leave campus for non-compliance.

Owners of any animal are responsible for the conduct and behavior of the animal and may be held financially responsible for any damage, injury or other liability should their animal cause harm to persons or property.

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Subject	Contact/Position	Office
Policy Issuance	AVC Plant Operations	Plant Operations https://www.vanderbilt.edu/plantops
Service or Emotional Support Animal accommodations for non-VU student populations	EOA	Equal Opportunity and Access https://www.vanderbilt.edu/eoa/ or eoavanderbilt.edu
Service Animal or ESA Accommodations for Students	Student Access	Student Access https://www.vanderbilt.edu/student-access/ or studentaccess@Vanderbilt.edu
Workplace Safety Concerns	OEM, Division of Occupational Safety & Health	Office of Emergency Management, Occupational Safety & Health https://www.vanderbilt.edu/workplace-safety/
Special Events with Animals	Office of Risk Management	riskandinsurance@vanderbilt.edu
Anonymous Compliance Reporting Hotline	Office of Risk Management	VU Compliance Reporting Hotline www.vanderbiltcompliancehotline.ethicspoint.com ;

RELATED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS

Americans with Disabilities Act: Commonly asked questions about service animals in places of business.
https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html

Assistance Animal Policy for Vanderbilt Students.
https://vanderbilt.edu/student_handbook/university-policies-and-regulations/

Vanderbilt University Student Handbook: Residential Life.
https://www.vanderbilt.edu/student_handbook/residential-life/

Metro Government of Nashville and Davidson County, TN Code of Ordinances, Chapter 8.04, Dogs.
https://library.municode.com/tn/metro_government_of_nashville_and_davidson_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CD_TIT8AN_CH8.04DO

Vanderbilt University Student Centers Policy for Non-Vanderbilt Affiliated Groups.
https://vanderbilt.edu/studentcenters/policies_trashed/offcampuspolicies/
See also, <https://vanderbilt.edu/recreationandwellnesscenter/reservations/specialevents.php>

Animals in Vanderbilt University Medical Center Buildings.
<https://vanderbilt.policytech.com/dotNet/documents/?docid=10382>

HISTORY

Issued: 07/15/2023

***Disclaimer:** Vanderbilt reserves the right to modify its policies and practices, in whole or in part, at any time. Revisions to existing policies and procedures, and the development of new policies and procedures, will be made from time to time at the discretion of the University. When new policies are implemented or existing policies are revised, the University will notify members of the University community as soon as practicable. However, where differences occur, the most recent policy as reviewed and approved by the University will take precedence.*