

# **NORTHERN VERMONT UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES AND EXPECTATIONS REGARDING PETS, SERVICE, AND ASSISTANCE ANIMALS ON CAMPUS**

## **GUIDING STATEMENT**

NVU welcomes animals on campus consistent with the procedures and expectations outlined below but may exclude an animal from campus if it causes disruption, threatens the health or safety of others, or otherwise fails to meet the criteria set forth in this document.

## **PETS**

A pet is any animal that is not trained or used as a service or assistance animal, but instead kept for ordinary recreation and companionship.

Pets are welcome to use public outdoor spaces on campus, subject to certain restrictions including the athletic fields. Where pets are permitted on campus, owners/handlers are expected to clean up after their animals. Pets visiting campus must always be kept on a leash and may not be left unattended or tied to any objects. All damages caused by an animal are the responsibility of the owner/handler.

To maintain safety and avoid disruption, pets are not allowed inside indoor spaces owned or controlled by the University.

## **SERVICE ANIMALS**

NVU welcomes the presence of service animals on campus. A service animal is any dog or miniature horse that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks to accommodate an individual with a disability.

Service animals are permitted to be anywhere on campus that the animal's handler is permitted to be, including indoor spaces; however, there may be some locations and activities where animals (including service animals) are not permitted for health and safety reasons including, but not limited to:

- Teaching laboratories
- Mechanical rooms/maintenance closets
- Food service preparation areas
- Areas where there is a danger to the service animal

Access to these and other restricted areas may be granted on a case-by-case basis by the University Coordinators of Disability Services (in the case of students) or the Director of Human Resources (in the case of employees). Contact information is provided below.

Individuals who anticipate bringing a service animal to campus regularly are encouraged to notify the Coordinator of Disability Services (in the case of students) for their respective campus or the Director of Human Resources (in the case of employees) to ensure appropriate access and use of University facilities. Contact information is provided below.

## ASSISTANCE ANIMALS

NVU welcomes the presence of approved assistance animals as a reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities who reside in University housing. An assistance animal is any animal that is specifically designated by a qualified health care provider as necessary in order to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to use and enjoy their residence. These are also referred to as emotional support animals (ESA).

Individuals seeking approval of an assistance animal to reside with them in University housing are required to make a request for reasonable accommodation with the Coordinator of Disability Services for their respective campus. Contact information is provided below.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF ANIMAL OWNERS/HANDLERS

Owners/handlers must comply with the following provisions regarding the behavior and care of animals (pets, service, and assistance) on campus:

- Animals must be leashed at all times unless otherwise authorized by one of the Coordinators of Disability Services or the Office of Human Resources. Contact information below.
- Dangerous, poisonous, or illegal animals are not permitted.
- The animal must be vaccinated in accordance with local law and meet all other licensing requirements.
- The animal must be in good health and maintain good hygiene. If fleas, ticks, or other pests are detected, the owner/handler will be required to remove the animal from the campus pending proof of treatment.
- From time to time, the University may use pesticides, pest control devices, de-icing materials, cleaning supplies, and other materials for the maintenance and operation of University facilities. The University is not responsible for any harm to animals on campus caused by such materials.
- The owner/handler is financially responsible for the animal, including for any bodily injury or property damage caused by the animal.

## EXCLUSIONS

Parts of these procedures and expectations do not apply to approved staff with live-in or live-on responsibilities.

The University may impose additional restrictions on the presence of animals in certain locations or at particular events.

## QUESTIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Coordinator of Student Disability Services at **NVU-Johnson** may be reached by email at: Michele.Feiner@NorthernVermont.edu, or by phone at: 802.635.1264.

Coordinator of Student Disability Services at **NVU-Lyndon** may be reached by email at: Mary.Etter@NorthernVermont.edu, or by phone at: 802.626.6210.

The Office of Human Resources at **Northern Vermont University** (for all employees) may be reached by email at: Katrina.Meigs@NorthernVermont.edu, or by phone at: 802.626.4865.