

Policies of the University of North Texas	Chapter 15
15.013 Animals in University of North Texas Buildings, Leased Facilities and On Campus Properties	Risk Management Services

Policy Statement. To promote the comfort, health and safety of the University of North Texas community by establishing guidelines on the presence of animals in university facilities and on university property.

Application of Policy. This policy shall apply to all university controlled/owned facilities and to all faculty, staff, students and visitors. This policy does not apply to:

- use of animals in research,
- service animals,
- animals approved in university residence halls
- experimentation, and
- biological testing conducted at or supported by the university.

Definitions.

1. **Domestic Animal.**—An animal that has been trained or adapted to living in a human environment. Such animals include, but are not limited to dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, and other types of household pets.
2. **Feral Animal.**—A once-domesticated animal that has reverted to an untamed state.
3. **Wild Animal.**—A non-domesticated animal living in its natural habitat.

Procedures and Responsibilities.

In the interest of the comfort, health and safety of its faculty, staff, students and visitors, the university prohibits animals in classrooms and facilities, with the exception of residence halls with prior approval, laboratory animals, police K-9s, and service and comfort animals as defined in federal law.

- I. **Animal Control.** The abandonment of animals on campus grounds is strictly forbidden.

The following animal control guidelines apply to these different types of animals:

- A. **Wild Animals.** The trapping, caging, displaying, and/or use of wild animals on campus for any other purpose than educational instruction or by persons approved by Risk Management Services are prohibited.

Wild animals that are not a risk and do not represent a hazard, cause property damage, or create a public nuisance, and that do not involve human intervention, shall

be allowed to inhabit the campus grounds. Prohibited human intervention includes, but is not limited to, feeding and building of shelters.

Wild animals that are a potential risk, represent a hazard, cause property damage, create a nuisance, or otherwise pose a potential conflict for humans shall be regulated, controlled, or humanely relocated when possible, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

- B. Feral Animals. Feral animals that are not a risk and do not represent a hazard, cause property damage, or create a public nuisance, shall be allowed to inhabit the campus grounds.

Feral animals that are a potential risk, represent a hazard, cause property damage, create a nuisance, or otherwise pose a potential conflict for humans shall be regulated, controlled, or humanely relocated when possible, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Feeding and entrapment of feral animals for rescue purposes or surgical sterilization is done by the feral cat rescue group. This practice is acceptable as long as doing so does not create a hazard, cause property damage, or create a public nuisance. Permission must be obtained from the Risk Management Services Department prior to the onset of any entrapment program outside the feral cat rescue group. Sterilized feral animals may be returned to their former habitat if efforts at socialization and subsequent home placement fail.

- C. Domestic Animals. Domestic animals are not allowed in campus buildings where campus business is conducted, including residence halls except as required by federal law and/or approved by Student Housing and Resident Life Department. This paragraph does not apply to service animals or to animals used by law enforcement officers.

Domestic animals are permitted on campus grounds if the animal is under the direct control of a responsible person while on campus grounds, restrained by either a leash that does not exceed 6 feet in length or in an appropriate animal carrier, crate, cage or kennel. Domestic animals under voice command are not considered on leash and are not permitted.

Domestic animals brought to campus must be licensed and fully inoculated with evidence of compliance available upon request.

Fecal matter deposited by any domestic animal brought to campus must be removed immediately and properly disposed of by the owner.

Domestic animals found tethered, unattended, or abandoned shall be humanely impounded in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

The University reserves the right to prohibit domestic animals from any campus event.

The University of North Texas complies with federal and state disability civil rights laws for service and comfort animals. For information contact the Office of Disability Accommodations. <http://disability.unt.edu/>.

- II. Animal Exhibit. The university discourages the use of live animal exhibits due to health and safety concerns for both the university community and the animals. However, it is also understood that live animal exhibits can provide an educational and enjoyable experience if proper precautions are taken. Approval may be obtained from the Risk Management Services Department for animals to be allowed in campus buildings for a limited time. A Request to Bring Animals to Campus form must be completed 10 working days prior to the event.

Responsibilities. The Risk Management Services Department and UNT Police are responsible for providing the final determination on the risk, potential hazard, potential for property damage, or potential for public nuisance of any animal on campus grounds and shall educate members of the campus community by informing them of the key aspects of this policy.

The Risk Management Services Department and UNT Police shall implement appropriate enforcement action.

The campus Feral Cat Rescue Group and/or the City of Denton Animal Services Department will be utilized to humanely and expeditiously capture and relocate animals when requested to do so by Risk Management Services and/or UNT Police.

Employees and students who fail to comply or who interfere with the enforcement of this policy may be subject to discipline.

References and Cross-references.

UNT Policy 05.033, Staff Employee Discipline and Involuntary Termination

UNT Policy 06.025, Faculty Discipline Policy

UNT Policy 13.001, Animal Care and Use Policy

<http://www.unt.edu/housing-dining.htm>

<http://www.cityofdenton.com/departments-services/departments-a-f/animal-services>

UNT Feral Cat Rescue Group <http://orgs.unt.edu/feralcat>

Forms and Tools.

Request to Bring Animals to Campus form, available from Risk Management Services.

University of North Texas Housing and Residence Life, Pet Owner's Agreement for Full Time Live-In Professional Staff.

Approved: 10/16/2013

Effective: 10/16/2013

Revised: