

Campus Animal Policy

I. Purpose and Scope

This policy establishes guidelines for animals on campus to ensure compliance with federal and state laws, maintain a safe and healthy environment, and support the educational mission of the institution while respecting the rights of individuals with disabilities.

This policy applies only to the PLTS campus at 2000 Center Street, Suite 200. Separate animal policies outlined in the PLTS Housing Handbook and Pet Agreement documents apply to student residences in the Overture Apartments.

II. Definitions

Service Animals

- **Definition:** Dogs (and in some cases miniature horses) that are individually trained to perform work or tasks for people with disabilities
- **Legal Basis:** Protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- **Training Requirements:** Must be professionally trained to perform specific disability-related tasks
- **Examples of Tasks:** Guide work for blind individuals, alerting deaf persons to sounds, pulling wheelchairs, alerting to seizures, retrieving items, providing stability for mobility-impaired individuals

Emotional Support Animals (ESAs)

- **Definition:** Animals that provide therapeutic benefit through companionship to individuals with documented mental health or psychiatric disabilities
- **Legal Basis:** Protected under Fair Housing Act for residential facilities; not covered under ADA for public access
- **Training Requirements:** No specialized training required
- **Documentation:** Requires letter from licensed mental health professional

Pets

- **Definition:** Animals kept primarily for companionship that do not qualify as service animals or emotional support animals
- **Legal Status:** No legal protections for campus access

III. Service Animals

Permitted Access

- Service animals are permitted in all areas of the PLTS campus
- No registration, certification, or special identification required
- No additional fees or deposits may be charged

Handler Responsibilities

- Animal must be under control at all times (leashed, harnessed, or voice-controlled)
- Handler is responsible for animal's care, supervision, and any damage caused
- Animal must be housebroken
- Handler must clean up after the animal

Institutional Rights

- May ask: (1) Is this a service animal? (2) What task is the animal trained to perform?
- May remove animal if: out of control and handler cannot regain control, or not housebroken
- Cannot ask for documentation, charge fees, or isolate handler from others

IV. Emotional Support Animals (ESAs)

Excluded from Classes, Chapel, and Public Events

- ESAs are not permitted in classes, in-person worship services, or other in-person public events on campus like lectures and meetings.
- Students may bring registered Emotional Support Animals to campus for community life events, workshops, or prospective student events only with the express permission of the event host, as approved by the Senior Office Services Coordinator.

Documentation Requirements

- Current vaccinations and health certificate required
- Letter from licensed mental health professional
 - Letter must be current (within one year)
 - Must establish disability-related need for the animal

ESA Registration Process

1. Communicate with the event host and/or the Senior Office Services Coordinator to seek approval to bring your Emotional Support Animal to campus for a particular event.

2. Once you have received approval, complete the [Animal on Campus Registration Form](#) including required documentation.
3. Only once the form and accompanying documentation has been received may you bring your ESA to campus.
4. Repeat this process for any future events to which you hope to bring your ESA to campus.

Conditions and Restrictions

- One ESA per person maximum
- Animal must be under control at all times (leashed or harnessed) and well-behaved
- Cannot be aggressive or pose threat to health/safety
- Must be spayed/neutered (with limited exceptions)

V. Pets

Private Spaces Only

- Pets are not permitted in any on-campus event or meeting.
- PLTS staff, faculty, and students may only bring pets to campus if they are confined to a private space and leashed, harnessed, or kenneled at all times.

VI. Health and Safety Requirements

All Animals on Campus

- Must be in good health and up-to-date on vaccinations
- Cannot exhibit aggressive behavior
- Must be under handler's control at all times
- Handler responsible for immediate cleanup of waste
- Handler is responsible for any damage caused by the animal

VII. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed periodically and updated as needed to reflect changes in federal and state laws, institutional needs, and best practices.