



Animal Control

Policy Number: 301

Categorized: Administrative

Procedure: 301P

Responsible Office: VP Finance and Administration

Effective Date: 09/01/2016

Date Last Reviewed: 01/23/2024

1. Scope

This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, contractors, and visitors on the Northern Virginia Community College Property, controlled or leased areas.

2. Policy Statement

In order to promote public safety and to protect the College from liability in animal control incidents, no person shall bring an animal onto campus unless the animal is leashed, caged, or under direct physical control of its owner or other responsible person, except as provided for in this policy.

General Provisions

- a. Animals are prohibited:
 - i. In any College owned or controlled facility.
 - ii. At any public gathering held on College owned or controlled property including, but not limited to, sporting events, outdoor concerts, demonstrations, exhibits, or fairs.
 - iii. On any College owned or controlled athletic field.
- b. Animals may not be tethered and left unattended.
- c. Animals should not be left in closed vehicles on campus.
- d. Horses shall not be ridden on any College owned or controlled property that is developed or landscaped.

Exceptions to this Policy

- a. This policy does not apply to service animals as defined by federal and state statutes and regulations.



b. Emotional Support Animals

- i. Emotional support animals that are leashed, caged or being held under the control of a handler or owner are permitted in outdoor areas on NOVA's campuses and around NOVA's facilities.
 - ii. Emotional support animals are not permitted inside of NOVA's buildings and facilities except where the animal has been approved as a reasonable accommodation for a disability in accord with standard procedures for requesting such accommodations.
- c. This policy does not apply to animals used by law enforcement or emergency personnel in the exercise of their official duties.
- d. This policy does not apply to animals that have been authorized for use in academic programs, teaching or research, or approved student activities.

3. Authority

[Virginia code 3.2-6504.1. Civil immunity; forcible entry of motor vehicle to remove unattended companion animal](#)

[§ 51.5-44.1. Fraudulent representation of a service dog or hearing dog; penalty](#)