

ANIMAL CONTROL

Policy Number: 301

Categorized: [Administrative Policies](#)

Responsible Office: College Police

Subject: Policy governing animals on College property

Related Policies: [105 - Service Animals](#)

Procedures: [310P](#)

Additional Information:

Effective Date: 09/01/2016

Last Reviewed Date: 07/23/2020

1. Scope

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

2. Policy

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. Definitions

Caged: an animal being restrained in an enclosed pen, box, or other similar container controlled by the owner or other responsible person who prevents the animal from escaping.

Direct physical control: the owner or other responsible person is physically holding the animal in such a way that it is not likely to escape.

Emotional support animal: animals of any species which may provide emotional support to a person but are not trained to perform work or tasks related to a person's disability. May also be called assistance animals or comfort animals.

Leashed: an animal being restrained on a cord, chain, or other similar restraint, not to exceed 8 feet in length, controlled by the owner of the animal or other responsible person.

Service animal: any dog that 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. (On a limited case-by-case basis, a miniature horse that has been similarly individually trained may also qualify as a service animal.) This includes an animal that is in training to become a service animal. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. Tasks may include, but are not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to sounds, pulling a wheelchair, retrieving dropped items, turning off/on switches, assisting during a seizure, or providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability.

4. Procedures

See [301P](#).

5. Authority

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

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