33.04.99.C0.01 Non-Research Animals on University Property and in Facilities

Revised: May 16, 2022
Next Scheduled Review: May 16, 2027
Revision History

Procedure Summary

Pets and other animals are restricted in Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) facilities, grounds, and parking areas. This restriction supports the university's efforts to provide a safe work, learning, and research environment. This procedure helps minimize the health risks and concerns of members of the campus community and aids the maintenance, appearance, and cleanliness of campus facilities. This procedure does not apply to service or emotional support animals, which are covered in university procedure *08.01.02.C0.03, Service and Emotional Support Animals*.

Definitions

Pets: A domesticated animal kept for pleasure rather than utility.

Stray Animal: Any domestic animal on campus that is not under physical restraint (i.e., leashed or caged, whether accompanied by a person or not).

Feral Animal: A once-domesticated animal that has reverted to an untamed state.

Wild Animal: A non-domesticated animal living in its natural habitat.

See university procedure *08.01.02.C0.03, Service and Emotional Support Animals* for additional definitions.

Procedure

1. GENERAL

    1.1. Animals are allowed on campus; however, they must be under physical restraint. Specific university rules and procedures may apply during special events such as concerts, athletics events, and guest speaker events.

1.2. Animals, other than service animals as outlined in university procedure *08.01.02.C0.03, Service and Emotional Support Animals*, are not allowed in university buildings, with the exception of specific functions approved to include animals.

1.3. The owner or responsible party for the animal is responsible for the care and supervision of the animal (including removal of excrement), as well as for any damage or injury caused by the animal while on property owned or controlled by the university.

1.4. The owner or responsible party for the animal must immediately remove and properly dispose of excrement left by their animal while on campus.

1.5. The university may exclude any animal from university property if that animal's behavior poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others, disrupts the educational or administrative process, or otherwise interferes with the usual conduct of any campus function. In such cases, the owner or responsible party must remove the animal immediately.

1.6. An animal left unattended in a vehicle or other area and is perceived to be in distress is to be reported to the University Police Department (UPD) for appropriate response. A person who leaves an animal unattended may be reported to UPD. Any animal found unattended in, or on, any campus facility may be impounded. The owner or responsible party for an impounded animal will be held responsible for payment of any impoundment and/or license fees required to secure the release of their animal.

1.7. The abandonment of animals on any TAMU-CC property is strictly forbidden.

1.8. The owner or responsible party who wishes to bring an animal on campus for a one-time display as part of a university-sanctioned event or class is required to comply with all applicable university procedures and follow the appropriate protocol for approval prior to bringing the animal on campus. This approval may require a certificate of insurance and animal health certificates. The owner or responsible party will be liable for any damage caused by the animal while on campus. For additional information, please contact Administrative Services at 361.825.2183.

1.9. It is the responsibility of Facilities Services to collect and dispose of dead animals. To report a dead animal, call Facilities Services at 361.825.2324.

2. WILD, FERAL, OR STRAY ANIMALS

2.1. Wild animals will be left alone if no immediate threat to human safety or property is evident. If an animal is exhibiting dangerous or destructive

behavior or posing an immediate threat, UPD must be notified immediately. UPD will monitor the animal until another appropriate party is contacted and arrives on the scene. If the animal is deemed a threat and immediate intervention is required, UPD may elect to remove the threat.

2.2. Individuals are discouraged from feeding wild, feral, and stray animals. This includes domesticated or feral cats, raccoons, opossums, skunks, squirrels, and any/all fauna which occur either naturally or unnaturally on TAMU-CC property. This shall not apply to food left out as bait for purposes of capturing or attracting animals for animal control or for educational purposes such as approved and monitored for research purposes.

2.3. Any person who vandalizes, removes, or deactivates an animal trap that has been set by the UPD or Facilities Services, will be in violation of this procedure and will be responsible for replacement costs and/or subject to disciplinary action.

3. EXEMPTIONS

3.1. This procedure applies to all animals on any TAMU-CC property or in any facility controlled by the university that are not related to the academic needs of the university including teaching and research as outlined in university rule *15.99.07.C1, Use of Vertebrate Animals in Research, Teaching, and Testing*.

3.2. This procedure excludes:

(a) Law enforcement K-9 and equestrian units

(b) Animals used as an accommodation under law (see university procedure *08.01.02.C0.03 Service and Emotional Support Animals* for details)

(c) Other exemptions made under special circumstances, including housing.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

University Rule *41.01.01.C0.01, Use of University Facilities*
University Procedure *08.01.02.C0.03, Service and Emotional Support Animals*
University Procedure *15.99.07.C1, Use of Vertebrate Animals in Research, Teaching, and Testing*

This procedure supersedes:

- *33.04.99.C0.01, Non-Research Animals on University Campus and in Facilities*

Contact Office

Contact for clarification and interpretation:	Administrative Operations 361.825.2422