



## **OP 56.04: ANIMALS ON CAMPUS**

### **PURPOSE**

To provide guidelines for the presence and control of personally owned animals (i.e., pets) on campus.

### **POLICY**

In the interest of promoting greater personal and animal safety, and maintaining a campus environment conducive for educational, research, academic and administrative purposes, the presence of personally owned animals on campus must be limited or prohibited by the university.

### **PROCEDURES**

The following requirements and prohibitions do not include:

1. Animals under the control of and used by academic departments for approved teaching and/or research purposes.
2. Client animals at the College of Veterinary Medicine.
3. University Police Department K-9 officers.
4. Animals present as part of University approved events.
5. University mascots

For further guidelines and policies on Service & Assistance Animals, See policy OP 91.123.

If there is any conflict or inconsistency between OP 91.123 and this policy and its application, OP 91.123 shall control. For further guidelines and policies on Laboratory Animal Welfare, see policy OP 79.05. If there is any conflict or inconsistency between OP 79.05 and this policy and its application, OP 79.05 shall control. For further guidelines and policies on animals in Faculty/Staff Housing, see policy OP 95.500. If there is any conflict or inconsistency between OP 95.500 and this policy and its application, OP 95.500 shall control.

Personally owned animals on Campus (including research farms) must:

1. Be under the complete control of the owner/caregiver at all times and present no hazard or potential damage to people or property. In all cases, the owner/caregiver of the animal is responsible for the animal's behavior.
2. Be secured by a leash, cord, chain, or similar direct physical control by the owner/caregiver of the animal.
3. Not be tethered to a stationary fixture or tree, or left unattended on campus.
4. Be properly cleaned up after. Cleaning up after the animal is the sole responsibility of the handler. The person cleaning up after the animal should abide by the following guidelines:
  - a. Always carry equipment sufficient to clean up the animal's feces whenever the

- animal is on campus.
- b. Properly dispose of waste and/or litter in appropriate containers.

In general, personally owned animals are not permitted in the following:

1. University buildings.
2. University transit system.
3. Tailgating areas on gameday.
4. MSU research facilities

The University reserves the right to prohibit or restrict animals on any campus property at any time as deemed necessary by authorized campus authorities.

The University may take reasonable efforts to protect an animal confined in a vehicle or location when there appears to be imminent danger to the animal. The University is not liable for any associated repair/damage costs to the vehicle or animal for this action and the animal's owner assumes full responsibility.

The University retains the right to take action to prohibit/remove any individual/animal from University premises if the safety of others, destruction of property, or behavior warrants such prohibition/removal.

Individuals failing to comply with this policy or the directives from authorized University officials enforcing this policy may be subject to the following:

1. Being required to leave the premises and remove the animal from University owned or controlled property.
2. If an individual with an animal fails to comply with a request from an authorized University official to leave the premises or remain off University owned or controlled property, the individual may be subject to arrest for criminal trespass and/or being banned from University property.
3. If the individual is a student or university employee, other disciplinary action may be taken pursuant to applicable University policies and procedures.
4. Paying any costs associated with violations of this policy.

## **REVIEW**

This policy will be reviewed every four years, or whenever circumstances require immediate review, by the Vice President for Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine, Vice President of Office of Research and Economic Development, Vice President of Student Affairs, and Provost and Executive Vice President.

**REVIEWED:**

/s/ Keith Coble  
Vice President, Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine

4/27/2022  
Date

/s/ Julie Jordan  
Vice President for Research and Economic Development

5/11/2022  
Date

/s/ Regina Hyatt  
Vice President for Student Affairs

5/11/2022  
Date

/s/ David Shaw  
Provost and Executive Vice President

5/13/2022  
Date

/s/ Tracey Baham  
Assistant Vice President, Institutional Strategy and Effectiveness

5/13/2022  
Date

/s/ Joan Lucas  
General Counsel

5/26/2022  
Date

**APPROVED:**

/s/ Mark E. Keenum  
President

6/27/2022  
Date