

Animals on Campus

I. Purpose

- A. To state and explain the college's policy regarding different types of animals on campus.

II. Policy Statement

- A. Santa Fe College is committed to providing those with disabilities an equal opportunity to access College property, courses, programs, activities and employment. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA) and Section F.S. 413.081, any individual seeking to bring a service animal to a Santa Fe College property is welcome to do so without prior approval from the College, or documentation that the service animal is trained to perform its duty. The College, however, reserves the right to ask the individual if: (1) the animal is required because of a disability, and (2) the work or task the animal has been trained to perform.

III. Definitions

- A. Service Animals: As defined by the ADAAA and 413.081, F.S., a service animal is an animal (a dog or a miniature horse) that is trained or is in training to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual or other mental disability. The work being performed must be directly related to the individual's disability. Work may include and is not limited to guiding an individual who is visually impaired or blind, alerting an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing, pulling a wheelchair, assisting with mobility or balance, helping an individual with a psychiatric or neurological disability by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors, reminding an individual with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming an individual with posttraumatic stress disorder during an anxiety attack, or doing other specific work or performing other special tasks. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.
- B. Handlers: An individual who is the owner, user, or trainer of a service animal is considered a handler and must comply with applicable state and local laws concerning the animal.
- C. Zoo Animal: Zoo animals are housed at the Santa Fe College Zoo for educational purposes. Zoo animals are allowed on campus under the direction of the SF Zoo Director or designee
- D. Police Animal: Police animals refer to dogs or horses that are specifically trained to assist police and other law-enforcement personnel. Police animals are allowed on campus under the direction of the SFPD Chief, IPS Director, or their designees.
- E. Laboratory Animal: Laboratory animals are those animals produced and/or used by faculty and staff to teach or train students. Laboratory animals are allowed in

SF laboratories and classrooms under the direction of faculty and staff in Academic Affairs.

- F. Counseling Center Therapy Animal: Counseling Center therapy animals are engaged by the college's licensed mental health Counseling Specialists to provide mental health services to SF students.
- G. Emotional Support Animal: An emotional support animal (also known as an assistance, comfort, and/or therapy animal) is an animal that an individual uses solely for emotional support, well-being, or comfort.
- H. Pet: A pet is a domestic animal kept for pleasure or companionship.
- I. Animal Services: Alachua County or Bradford County Office of Animal Services.

IV. Restrictions

A. Service Animals and Handlers

- 1. Service animals must be accompanied by their handlers at all times and in all public areas of College property, including without limitation to classrooms, restrooms, administrative buildings, meeting areas and dining areas. Interference in any way with a service animal or the duties it performs is prohibited.
- 2. The College recognizes that the presence of a service animal in certain areas may pose a health and safety risk to the animal, to the handler, to other individuals on campus, or may fundamentally alter the nature of a program or service being offered.
 - a. Service animals are restricted from the following areas: 1. Teaching laboratories 2. Energy or maintenance control areas 3. Areas where protective clothing is required 4. Any other areas in the presence of a service animal would pose a danger to the service animal, handler, or other individuals such as in areas in which heavy equipment or machinery is used 5. Any other areas that are subject to restrictions outside of the control of the College 6. Food preparation areas 7. The Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo 8. Any area as prohibited by law.
 - b. Service animals may be permitted in teaching laboratories when arrangements can be made to ensure that the animal's presence poses no health or safety risk. These arrangements may include, and are not limited to, the handler purchasing and the service animal wearing protective gear, booties, goggles, etc. or identifying a location in the lab where the service animal will stay, away from potential spills or other risks.

V. Handler Responsibilities

- A. Handlers must maintain control of their animal at all times, using a harness, lease or other tether while on College property.
- B. Handlers must never leave animals unattended on College property. Should any animal be found unaccompanied, the animal may be subject to removal by SFPD, Alachua or Bradford County Animal Services, or persons trained in animal handling and the handler may be subject to action under applicable College

policies. SFPD should be contacted immediately to report unattended animals on campus.

- C. Handlers may not leave the animal tied or tethered to any College property, including and not limited to buildings, railing, bike racks, fire hydrants, fences, signposts, benches and trees.
- D. Animals may not be left in vehicles, be outside of the control of their handler, and may not be allowed to run freely anywhere on campus.
- E. To the extent possible, handlers should mitigate any disruption or interference caused by the animal to College activities including and not limited to teaching, services or administrative activities.
- F. At all times, the well-being of the animal is the sole responsibility of the handler. The handler is also responsible for properly cleaning up any waste created by the animal and any property damage or injuries caused by the animal. Should the handler not take appropriate precautions to prevent property damage or injury to the College community, the handler may be asked to remove the animal from College property and may be subject to action under applicable College policies.
- G. At all times, handlers must keep animals on a leash or harness, as applicable, while on College property. Where a leash or harness is not applicable, the animal must be under the handler's control by means of voice control, signals or other effective means. If the animal is physically out of control including and not limited to barking, demonstrating aggressive or threatening behavior, etc., and the handler is unable to take effective measures to gain control, the College reserves the right to have the animal removed from campus.

VI. Campus Spaces

A. Inside Buildings

- a. With the exception of service animals, zoo animals, laboratory animals, police animals, Counseling Center therapy animals, and animals invited to College events by College officials, no animals are allowed to enter SF buildings at any time.
- b. Counseling Center Therapy Animals must be registered, and the handler must provide proof of liability insurance and current vaccination records to the SF Safety Coordinator. The animal must be accompanied by the handler to be permitted to enter the SF Counseling Center. With special permission from the SF Safety Coordinator, Counseling Center therapy animals may be allowed in other areas of the College only when accompanied by the handler and Counseling Specialist offering services to students.
- c. Emotional support animals are strictly prohibited from entering all SF buildings. Emotional Support Animals do not qualify as "services animals" under the ADAAA nor this policy because they are not individually trained to perform work or tasks.
- d. Pets are strictly prohibited from entering all SF buildings.

B. Outdoor Public Spaces

- a. Pets and emotional support animals may be allowed in certain outdoor public spaces designated by the college. Designated spaces include the exterior region of the campus and centers, athletic areas south of South Road as well as the open field north of O building. Consistent with Alachua County Ordinance Chapter 72, a handler must maintain physical control of their animal when in a public space and must also carry adequate waste removal devices or disposal bags and remove any excreta deposited by the animal.

VII. Regulations

- B. The College reserves the right to request that any animal be removed from College property if the animal does not meet the definition of a service animal.
- C. The College may request that a service animal be removed from under certain circumstances. Such circumstances include and are not limited to 1) If the service animal is found by the College to be out of control and the animal's handler does not take immediate and effective action to control the animal. 2) If the service animal is not housebroken. 3) If the service animal is physically ill. 4) If the service animal is unreasonably dirty. 5) If the service animal attempts to enter a place on campus where the presence of the service animal causes danger to the safety of the handler and/or other students/member of campus 6) If the service animal enters a prohibited area. 7) If the service animal is, or could be, in danger. 8) If the service animal is left unattended. The College shall make such determinations on a case-by-case basis.
- D. Should the restriction or removal of a service animal be warranted under this policy, the College will work with the handler to determine a reasonable alternative accommodation that will allow the handler equal access to the academic program, activity or employment responsibilities.

VIII. Opposition to Service Animals

- A. Students who are scheduled to come in regular contact with a service animal but experiences an adverse reaction like fear or allergy should contact the Disabilities Resources Center.
- B. Employees who are scheduled to come in regular contact with a service animal but experiences an adverse reaction like fear or allergy should contact the Equity Officer.
- C. Actions will be taken to accommodate the needs of the handler and the person negatively impacted by the service animal, when possible.

IX. Appeals

- A. Any person who feels that they have been unfairly denied access to College property due the presence of a service animal or have been discriminated against on the basis of a disability, may file a complaint under College Policy 2.8 or contact the College's Equity Officer.
- B. Contact Information and Resources
 - A. Equity Officer and Title IX Coordinator

1. Equity Officer and Title IX Coordinator 3000 NW 83rd Street, R-Annex, Room 113 Gainesville, FL 32606 352-395-5950
equity.officer@sfcollege.edu
- B. Disabilities Resource Center
 1. Disabilities Resource Center (DRC) Building S, Room 229 3000 NW 83rd St., Gainesville, FL 32606 Voice/TTY (352) 395-4400; Fax (352) 395-4100
E-mail: disability.info@sfcollege.edu Web
www.sfcollege.edu/student/drc/

This policy does not supersede any federal laws, state statutes nor municipal ordinances.

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