



**Policy Title: Animals on Campus Policy**

**Policy Number:**

**Date Issued: December 4, 2009**

**Responsible Executive: Chief Compliance and Risk Officer**

**Date Last Revised: June 21, 2023**

**Responsible Office: Environmental Health and Safety**

## **Animals on Campus Policy**

---

### **Policy Statement**

Animals pose health and safety concerns to the campus community such as allergies, disruptions, injuries, disease transmission and damage to property. Baylor University (“Baylor” or the “University”) sets out certain limits and requirements for animals on campus to provide for the health and safety of Baylor University students, faculty, staff, and visitors, and for the protection of the University’s property and assets.

---

### **Reason for the Policy**

This policy standardizes Baylor University’s position on the management of animals on University-controlled property.

---

### **Individuals/Entities Affected by this Policy**

This policy applies to all on-campus, University-controlled properties and all athletic facilities.

---

### **Exclusions**

NONE

---

### **Related Documents and Forms**

---

#### **University Policies and Documents**

Office of Access and Learning Accommodation Service and Emotional Support Animal Procedures

---

## Other Documents

---

[Americans with Disabilities Act, Title III](#)

[Fair Housing Act](#)

[Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504](#)

[City of Waco Code of Ordinances, Chapter 5 - Animals](#)

[City of Waco Animal Safety and Ordinances Information](#)

[Health and Safety Code, Chapter 437, Section 437.025](#)

[Texas Association of Counties 2017 Animal Control Handbook](#)

---

## Definitions

---

These definitions apply to terms as they are used in this policy.

<b>University-controlled property</b>	Property that is owned, operated, leased and/or maintained by the University.
<b>Service Animals</b>	A "Service Animal" as defined by the ADA Title III regulations, specifically a dog or miniature horse trained to perform work or tasks for a person with a disability.
<b>Emotional Support Animals</b>	Any animal permitted under the Fair Housing Act or Section 504 that is not a "Service Animal" as a reasonable accommodation for a person with a disability
<b>Research and Teaching Animals</b>	Animals used directly in support of Baylor University's mission of teaching, research, or clinical programs. These animals must be in compliance with the rules and guidelines of the Office of Vice Provost for Research.
<b>Unattended/Unrestrained Animals</b>	An animal that is unattended, unrestrained, or not under the control of its owner or handler.

---

## Contacts

---

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Office email/web site</b>
<b>Baylor University Police Department</b>	Department of Public Safety	254-710-2222	<a href="https://www.baylor.edu/dps/">https://www.baylor.edu/dps/</a>
<b>Research</b>	Office of Vice Provost for Research	254-710-1438	<a href="https://resources.research.baylor.edu">https://resources.research.baylor.edu</a>
<b>Policy Questions</b>	University Compliance and Risk Services	254-710-2900	<a href="https://www.baylor.edu/risk/">https://www.baylor.edu/risk/</a>
	Environmental Health & Safety	254-710-2900	<a href="https://ehs.web.baylor.edu">https://ehs.web.baylor.edu</a>
<b>Accommodations</b>	Office of Access and Learning Accommodation	254-710-2416	<a href="https://www.baylor.edu/oala/">https://www.baylor.edu/oala/</a>
<b>Employee Questions</b>	Human Resources	254-710-2000	<a href="https://hr.web.baylor.edu">https://hr.web.baylor.edu</a>

---

---

## Responsibilities

---

<b>Animal Owner or Handler</b>	Students, faculty, staff, and visitors shall obtain approval if required prior to bringing any animal on University-controlled property. Animal owners or handlers must maintain control of their animals at all times and keep their animals away from the Bear Habitat. Animal owners or handlers must comply with State of Texas and City of Waco requirements (e.g., tag/license, leashing, vaccines, care standards, microchip, spay/neuter).
<b>Environmental Health and Safety (EHS)</b>	EHS is responsible for the enforcement of this policy.
<b>Campus Living &amp; Learning</b>	Campus Living & Learning is responsible for oversight of animals in University housing.
<b>Office of Access and Learning Accommodation</b>	The Office of Access and Learning Accommodation is responsible for oversight of service animals and approval of emotional support animals at the University.

---

## Principles

---

Animals not expressly prohibited under this policy may be brought on University-controlled property subject to the requirements of this policy or related University policies or procedures.

To the extent not prohibited below, dogs that are on a leash and properly controlled by their handlers are permitted on University-controlled property. Animals must be maintained on a physical (visible) leash, on a restraining harness, or in an enclosure, and must be under the control of the owner or handler at all times.

Animal owners or handlers are responsible for cleaning up any waste generated by their animal.

Anyone who brings an animal on University-controlled property assumes all financial responsibility for any damages to property or injury to individuals caused by the animal.

All animals not in an enclosure must be on a harness, visible leash, or other tether, except for (a) first responder animals; (b) Service Animals, when the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash or other tether would interfere with the Service Animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the Service Animal must be otherwise under the handler's control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means); or

(c) Research and Teaching Animals removed from their enclosure for testing or teaching when under the handler's control.

No animals of any type may be tethered to University buildings, motor vehicles, trees, railings, light poles, benches, posts, or other structures.

No person shall leave any animal in a standing or parked vehicle in such a way as to intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence endanger the animal's health, safety, or welfare.

### **Prohibited Animals**

The following categories of animals are prohibited from all University-controlled property (inside and outside) at all times:

1. Animals with a known history of dangerous or aggressive behavior or demonstrating dangerous or aggressive behavior.
2. Any animal not permitted to be kept as a pet under state or local laws or regulations.
3. Venomous and poisonous animals (e.g., amphibians, reptiles, insects, spiders) or constricting snakes (e.g., Boas, Pythons, and Anacondas).
4. Any wild or non-domesticated animal.

### **Failure to Comply**

#### **A. Prohibited Animals on University-controlled Property**

Any prohibited animals on University-controlled property must be removed immediately. If a prohibited animal is observed on a University-controlled property, the owner or handler may face disciplinary measures by appropriate authorities which may include Campus Living & Learning, the University's Human Resource Department, and/or Judicial Affairs. EHS will ask the owner or handler to leave campus and Baylor University Police Department may be notified.

#### **B. Unattended or Unrestrained Animals**

City of Waco Ordinance 2019-197 Sec.5-123.1 requires animals to be restrained in public areas including Baylor campus. If an unrestrained/unattended animal is observed, a reasonable attempt will be made to locate the animal's owner

or handler. If the owner or handler is located, he/she may face disciplinary measures by appropriate authorities which may include Campus Living & Learning, the University's Human Resource Department, and/or Judicial Affairs. EHS will ask the owner or handler to leave campus and Baylor University Police Department may be notified. If attempts to find the animal's owner or handler are unsuccessful, the University may facilitate removal of the animal from University-controlled property.

### C. Property Damage

The University will seek restitution for any animal-related damage to University-controlled property, facilities, or grounds. The repair or replacement cost of damaged property is the sole responsibility of the owner or handler of the animal that caused the damage.

### **Exemptions**

The animals listed below are permitted as specified inside University-controlled property:

- A. Service Animals (dogs and miniature horses), subject to the rules and requirements in the Service and Emotional Support Animal Procedures. Non-service animals are not permitted inside University-controlled property.
- B. Emotional Support Animals for those students, staff, and faculty who have been authorized to have them in University housing, subject to the rules and requirements in the Service and Emotional Support Animal Procedures and/or Human Resources. Insurance may be required for animals living in University housing. Emotional Support Animals are not permitted in University-controlled buildings outside of University housing.
- C. Research and Teaching Animals
- D. Fish in containers of ten gallons or less unless the container is housed within an academic department
- E. First responder animals, subject to any rules and procedures of BUDPS
- F. Dogs of those University staff that have been authorized by Campus Living & Learning living in University housing

- G. Any other animals that have been authorized on campus under special permission of University Compliance and Risk Services or the Vice President for Student Life.
- H. Official University mascots, exhibit animals, and other animals as previously approved by the University
- I. Equestrian team animals

Although these animals are permitted on University-controlled property and within certain University buildings and facilities, they must always remain under the control of the owner or handler. The care or supervision of an exempted animal is solely the responsibility of the owner or handler. Baylor University reserves the right, in its sole reasonable discretion, to exclude any animal that poses a threat to the health or safety of others, or whose owner or handler is determined to have failed to exercise proper care and supervision.

#### **Wild or feral animals on campus**

Wild animals such as raccoons, skunks, squirrels, foxes, coyotes, armadillos, snakes, and bats can occasionally be found on campus. Due to the potential for disease transmission, it is strongly recommended not to attempt to feed or interact with wild animals on campus. If an animal is trapped, injured, or poses a threat to people, contact EHS during business hours or Baylor PD after hours. For safety, feral cats or loose dogs without owners should be treated with the same caution as a wild animal.