

ANIMALS ON CAMPUS POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to outline Brock University's commitment to the needs of community members who wish to be accompanied by a Service Animal on Campus in accordance with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act* ("the AODA") and the Ontario *Human Rights Code* and to clarify the requirements relating to Service Animals on Campus.

This Policy also aims to ensure that all Brock community members are provided with a safe and healthy work environment.

This Policy supports and aligns with the University's commitments under the University's Accessibility Policy, Employment Accommodation Policy, and Policy on Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities.

SCOPE

This Policy applies to all staff, faculty, professional librarians, students, contractors, and visitors at Brock University who seek to bring an animal into any indoor space on Campus.

The Policy does not apply to animals on Campus for research and/or teaching purposes, which are covered by the Animal Care and Use policy set out in Faculty Handbook 3:C:2.3.

If any provision of this Policy is found to be inconsistent with the provisions of a collective agreement, the collective agreement will prevail, unless the Policy provision is required by law, in which case the Policy provision will prevail.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Service Animals

1.1. Service Animals in Public Areas

Brock University is committed to the principles of accommodation for individuals with disabilities and, in accordance with the AODA, the University welcomes Service Animals that assist individuals with disabilities while attending Brock University Campus. Any individual may be accompanied by a Service Animal in

any space on Campus which is open to the public provided the animal can be readily identified as one that is being used by the individual for reasons relating to their disability (e.g., through use of a vest or harness) or they carry documentation to confirm the animal is a Service Animal. If it is not obvious that an animal is being used for reasons relating to a disability, the University may request documentation from Handlers to confirm that an animal is a Service Animal.

1.2. Service Animals in Non-Public Areas

Students or employees wishing to be accompanied by a Service Animal in non-public indoor space on Campus must register the Service Animal in accordance with the Service Animals on Campus Procedures. Non-public indoor spaces include classrooms, laboratories, private offices, residences, and any other indoor space to which the public is not ordinarily permitted.

The University may prohibit or limit the presence of a Service Animal in indoor spaces on Campus where necessary for health and/or safety reasons, as set out below. Where a Service Animal is excluded, the University will provide the individual with a disability alternative accommodations.

2. Service Animals-in-Training

2.1. Service Animals-in-Training approval requirements

Service Animals-in-Training may be permitted on Campus provided approval is granted in accordance with the Service Animals on Campus Procedures. While the University recognizes the importance of training future Service Animals and supports the presence of Service Animals-in-Training on Campus, approval to be accompanied by a Service Animal-in-Training to Campus is at the University's sole discretion.

2.2. Service Animals-in-Training limitations

The University reserves the right to limit the number of Service Animals-in-Training allowed on Campus, including within University residences, and may limit the duration of the registration to a certain training period.

In exceptional circumstances, Service Animals-in-Training may be permitted in instructional spaces (e.g., classrooms, laboratories).

3. Legal restrictions

Service Animals and Service Animals-in-Training are excluded by law from the following areas and in the following circumstances:

- a. Restricted areas: areas where research animals are handled, and laboratories where biological, radioactive, and/or chemical materials are stored, used or processed;
- b. Food areas: in accordance with the [Health Protection and Promotion Act](#), animals are prohibited from entering rooms where food is manufactured, prepared, processed, handled, served, displayed, stored, sold or offered for sale, with the exception of Service Animals which may be in an area of the food premise where food is served, sold or offered for sale.
- c. Restricted breeds: some municipal by-laws restrict certain breeds of animals or dogs from the municipality and these by-laws apply even if the animal is acting as a Service Animal or Service Animal-in-Training.
- d. Unmanageable health and safety threat: If a Service Animal or Service Animal-in-Training is determined by the University to pose an unmanageable threat to the health and safety of University Members, the University may require the owner/handler to remove the animal from University property, restrict access to Campus, or impose conditions on the animal's continued presence.

4. Responsibilities of Handlers

Handlers who are accompanied by a Service Animal or Service Animal-in-Training on Campus must:

- a. ensure that the Service Animal, or Service Animal-in-Training is in close proximity to the Handler and under the direct control of the Handler at all times though use of leash or other appropriate means, unless being unrestrained is necessary to perform their identified tasks or functions;
- b. carry appropriate documentation relating specifically to the Service Animal, or Service Animal-in-Training, including the Brock identification card (if applicable) or ensure that the animal is marked with a visual indicator such as a vest or harness indicating that the animal is a Service Animal or Service Animal-in-Training;
- c. ensure that the Service Animal or Service Animal-in-Training has up-to-date vaccinations and proper licensing as required by Ontario law and/or city by-law, and is wearing tags demonstrating this, as appropriate;
- d. clean up after their Service Animal or Service Animal-in-Training and dispose of waste in the appropriate receptacle; and
- e. be responsible for the behaviour, welfare, and management of the Service Animal or Service Animal-in-Training, including any damage caused by the animal, and promptly remove the Service Animal or Service Animal-in-Training if the animal is causing disruptions or presenting an unmanageable threat to the health and safety of the work, learning, or residence environment.

5. Pets

Pets are not permitted in any University indoor space. Housing Services does not allow Pets in residence, except as approved by under the Residence Community Standards.

6. Exemptions for Special Events

If an individual or group wishes to bring an animal which is not a Service Animal or Service Animal-in-Training to an indoor area of Campus for an authorized event, the individual or group must obtain approval through the University's event risk management procedures.

DEFINITIONS

Campus means any property owned and operated or leased by the University. For greater certainty, Campus does not include property owned by the University but leased to third parties or operated by third parties.

Handler means any individual who has charge of a Service Animal or Service Animal-in-Training on Campus

Pet: Any domestic or tamed animal kept for companionship that is not a Service Animal or Service Animal-in-Training.

Service Animal means

- a. a guide dog as defined in section 1 of the [Blind Persons' Rights Act, 1990](#); or
- b. a service animal within the definition of service animal under the Integrated Accessibility Standards under the AODA (O.Reg. 191/11) ("IASR"), which stipulate that an animal is a service animal for a person with a disability if:
 - I. the animal can be readily identified as one that is being used by the person for reasons relating to the person's disability, as a result of visual indicators such as the vest or harness worn by the animal; or
 - II. the person provides documentation from one of the regulated health professionals listed in the IASR, appropriately confirming that the person requires the animal for reasons relating to the disability.

Therapy, emotional support, and comfort animals do not qualify as Service Animals unless they meet the Service Animal definition under the IASR.

Service Animal-in-Training means an animal undergoing training as a Service Animal by a provincially or nationally accredited training organization for Service Animals recognized by the University.

COMPLIANCE AND REPORTING

This Policy is under the jurisdiction of the Vice-President, Administration. The interpretation and application of this Policy is the shared responsibility of the Office of People and Culture and Student Accessibility Services.

Any violation of this Policy should be brought to the attention of the Office of People and Culture (for employees) or Student Affairs (for students). Any immediate safety concerns should be reported to Campus Safety Services.

POLICY DETAILS

Policy Owner

Vice-President, Administration

Administrative Responsibility

Associate Vice-President, People & Culture & Associate Vice-President, Students

Policy Classification

Operational

Approval

Approved by the Executive Team.

Effective Date

August 2024

Next Review

August 2027

Revision History

Adopted August 2024

Related Documents

- Accessibility Policy
- Employment Accommodation Policy
- Policy on Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities.
- Service Animals on Campus Procedures