

Missouri Western State University
Animals on Campus Guidelines
University Policies
Approved: 09/25/2017

Effective September 21, 2017

It is the policy of Missouri Western State University to provide a safe, non-threatening, and healthy campus environment for our faculty, staff, students, vendors, and guests. To continue a tradition of being an animal-friendly campus, while at the same time recognizing that allowing animals on campus can create certain challenges, the following guidelines are adopted to effectuate a balanced approach to establishing an animal-friendly campus. These guidelines are intended to respond to concerns of health (especially allergies), fear, and safety regarding animals on campus.

ANIMAL OWNER GENERAL CAMPUS GUIDELINES

- An approved animal may be allowed on campus for occasional and infrequent short visits in the company of the owner in “animal friendly” areas defined as all outdoor general public access areas. Indoor areas are not considered “animal friendly” unless outlined in the subsequent sections based on the category of animal.
- Animals should never be left unattended by the owner.
- Animals are to be under the control of their owners at all times. Animals should be leashed (standard six feet in length or otherwise appropriately restrained or caged) unless leashing directly impedes a service animal’s ability to perform its trained task(s).
- All animals must be healthy and pose no reasonable health risk to humans as carriers of active infections, parasites, etc. Animal owners must comply with local laws and ordinances governing licensing, vaccinations, and control, and must provide proof of compliance, upon request.
- Owners must be aware of the animal’s behavior and be considerate of others. Excessive noise, barking or other disruptive behavior is not permitted, and may result in the animal not being permitted on campus until able to meet acceptable standards of behavior.
- Owners are personally responsible for any damage the animal causes to University property, and for any injuries or illnesses caused by their animal.
- It is the owners’ responsibility to clean up after the animal and dispose of the animal’s waste properly.

SERVICE ANIMALS

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, Missouri Western must allow service animals to accompany people with disabilities in all areas where the public is normally allowed to go.

Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly

related to the person's disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal work or the individual's disability prevents using these devices. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.

Further guidance on service animals can be found on the Accessibility Resource Center's website at <https://www.missouriwestern.edu/arc/guidance-on-service-animals/>.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS

Emotional Support Animals are only allowed on Residential Life grounds after approval from the Emotional Support Animal Committee and proper forms and medical clearance is received. An ESA is not allowed in any other building other than the assigned room of the resident.

ANIMALS FOR UNIVERSITY BUSINESS

Missouri Western will only allow animals in the buildings for university business or university sponsored events. This would include animals used for classroom and research purposes. Prior approval must be made at the department chair level or higher.

FACULTY/STAFF LIVING IN RESIDENTIAL HALLS

Animals are allowed in the residential halls with prior approval from the Director of Residential Life. Fish, small crustaceans, mollusks, and small amphibians, all living under water and in aquariums no larger than 10 gallons in size are allowed without prior approval. Unapproved animals found in University buildings must be removed immediately and may be removed by University staff or other officials. The University is not responsible for what happens to any animal when it is removed or while present on MWSU property.