



Animals on Campus

The following policy has been established to provide for the health and safety of Centenary University's students, faculty, staff and visitors, and for the protection, efficient use, and enjoyment of the campus.

Centenary University is committed to creating a welcoming environment through the use of commonly accepted guidelines and procedures that allow animals to be on campus. Centenary allows members of the campus community and visitors to bring their pets onto the campus grounds. However, some regulation is necessary to ensure that a pet does not become a threat, health hazard, nuisance, or distraction to University activities.

For purposes of this policy, a "pet" is defined as an animal kept for ordinary use and companionship.

Exemptions to this policy include:

- Service animals accompanying a person with a disability
- Approved emotional support animals
- Certified therapy animals
- Official on-duty police dogs
- Animals approved for live-in professional staff members (i.e., residence hall directors)

Although these exempted animals are permitted within the buildings and facilities, said animals must remain under the control of the owner at all times. The care or supervision of an exempted animal is solely the responsibility of their owner. Centenary University reserves the right to exclude an exempted animal whose behavior poses a threat to the health or safety of others.

For more information on service animals or support animals, please refer to the Disability Services Handbook posted on the [Disability Services Office](#) webpage.

Residence Halls

Students are not permitted pets or other animals in any University residence hall because of sanitation, noise, and potential health and safety concerns for students, faculty, and staff. The exceptions are small non-meat-eating fish in one 10 gallon tank maximum capacity per resident. Pet paraphernalia, equipment, supplies and food are also prohibited. Residents of the room, regardless of ownership or responsibility for the pet, are subject to disciplinary action which may result in loss of housing. Please refer to the Student Handbook.

Professional staff members living in the residence halls (i.e., residence hall directors) may be allowed a pet. Any live-in staff member considering the acquisition of a pet is expected to discuss this matter with the Director of Residence Life and Community Standards or his/her designee in advance of ownership.

The Director of Residence Life and Community Standards has final approval for both the acquisition of and selection of a particular type of pet. Any incoming live-in staff member must discuss the type of pet being brought to campus to ensure that it meets policy guidelines as outlined in the Agreement for Pets for Live-In Professional Staff. Pet ownership is decided on a case by case basis.

Animals in the Classroom

Other than the exempted animals mentioned in this policy, dogs, cats, and other animals may be permitted in University buildings if the presence of the animal is for bona fide, documented academic purposes. Prior permission must be obtained from the Department Chair. After the class or session has concluded, the animal should be promptly removed from the University building.

Pets

A “pet” is defined as an animal kept for ordinary use and companionship.

Pets visiting the campus are not permitted inside any campus facility including classrooms, offices, and residential buildings.

Pets brought onto the campus grounds must be under the control of the owner (i.e., on a leash or harness, or in a caged enclosure) at all times. Owners may be asked to remove their pet from campus if the animal is unreasonably disruptive (e.g., excessive barking or aggressive tendencies) or is otherwise not under the control of the owner and the owner fails to take effective action to control the animal. If the presence of an animal poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others, the University reserves the right to remove or exclude an animal from University property. Animals that disrupt the educational, administrative, or other operations of the University will be immediately removed from the campus. Campus Security may be contacted to assist in the removal of the animal.

The owner is responsible for cleaning up and properly disposing of messes and waste left by their pet.

The University will seek restitution for any animal-related damage to University property, facilities, or grounds. The repair or replacement cost of damaged property is the sole responsibility of the owner of the animal that caused the damage. Anyone who brings a pet onto University property assumes all financial responsibility for any damages to property or injury to individuals caused by the animal.

Pets may not be tethered to University buildings, structures, motor vehicles, trees, railings, light poles, benches, posts, or other structures.

Pets will not be allowed (leashed or unleashed) at any special events or University functions with the exception of an event that has been approved by an Executive Staff member.

Unattended or Unrestrained Animals

If an unattended/unrestrained animal is observed, a reasonable attempt will be made to locate the animal’s owner. If the owner is located, he/she may face disciplinary measures by appropriate authorities which may include the Office of Student Life or the Human Resources Department.

If attempts to find the animal’s owner are unsuccessful, Hackettstown Animal Control will be contacted, and they will remove the animal from University property. If the owner is located after the animal is brought to the Hackettstown Animal Control facility, the owner will be responsible for any and all fees imposed by Hackettstown Animal Control.