



Policy Name	University Animal Policy
Policy Number (Org/No.)	10000.201
Administrative Division	Office of the President
Unit	Office of the President
Effective Date	August 15, 2023
Revised Date	N/A
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1.0 Purpose

This policy regulates privately-owned animals in Jackson State University buildings and on University owned and controlled property ("University Property"). All individuals on University Property are generally prohibited from bringing animals on any University Property, with the exception of approved: (1) Service Animals and (2) Emotional Support Animals, as provided in detail in the University service and emotional support animal policy and procedure. Any and all Jackson State University administrators, faculty, or staff member requesting approval for service or emotional support animals should contact the Jackson State University Department of Human Resources.

2.0 Applicability

This policy applies to all Jackson State University administrators, faculty, staff, students, and visitors.

3.0 Definitions

3.1. Service Animal - A service animal as per the ADA is defined as: "Any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the owner's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. 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."

3.2. Emotional Support Animal - The Fair Housing Act defines an emotional support animal as any animal that provides emotional support, well-being, or companionship that alleviates or mitigates symptoms of the disability; the animal

is not individually trained. Emotional support animals are not limited to dogs and can be other species of animal. Emotional support animals are not considered service animals. In order to bring an emotional support animal to campus, the Owner must contact the Disability Services Center (DSC) no less than 60 days prior to arrival, in order to permit time to gather all necessary documentation. Animals should not be brought to campus prior to approval being granted.

The University will make an individualized assessment of each proposed emotional support animal. Dogs must also be completely trained and housebroken. The use of "puppy pads" will not be permitted. For dogs under 12 months old that are not already living with the student at the time the ESA is requested, DCS will ask for a statement that the puppy is housebroken from the breeder, adoption agency, or person providing the animal to the student. For animals already known to the student, the student can self-attest to the housebroken status of the animal.

- 3.3 University Property - Any and all University real estate including, but not limited to, all physical spaces, facilities, buildings, and acreage that the University owns, leases, controls, or uses in the execution of its mission.

4.0 Policy

All individuals on University Property are generally prohibited from bringing animals on any University Property, with the exception of approved: (1) Service Animals and (2) Emotional Support Animals, as provided in detail in the University service and emotional support animal policy and procedure in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"), ADA Amendments Act of 2008 ("ADAAA"), Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Fair Housing Act of 1968, and other relevant laws and regulations (collectively, the "Applicable Laws"). Any and all Jackson State University administrators, faculty, or staff member requesting approval for service or emotional support animals should contact the Jackson State University Department of Human Resources.

Students with approved emotional support animals are prohibited from having the approved emotional support animals outside of their designated residence hall, unless it is to allow the approved emotional support animal to relieve themselves in the designated campus areas. In order to be considered for approval, all students must fully complete an ESA registration packet. The packet must contain a diagnosis of disability on the healthcare provider's letterhead and signed by the healthcare provider. The veterinarian information of the animal must also be attached to the ESA registration packet.

Any Individual who brings or has an animal in their possession on University property not in conformance with this policy will be required to immediately remove the animal from campus or if the individual refuses to remove the animal, that individual will be required to leave the campus and may be referred to the appropriate office for disciplinary action, such as the Dean of Students office for a student code of conduct violation or the Department of Human Resources.

Any individual who brings an animal on University property is responsible for the behavior and actions of the animal, health and safety of individuals in proximity of or impacted by the animal, and the health and cleanliness of the campus environment. Animals on University property must have all current vaccinations. The University will seek restitution for any animal-related damage to University-controlled property, facilities, or grounds. The cleanup, repair, or replacement cost of damaged property is the sole responsibility of the owner of the animal that caused the damage. This applies to all animals, and is not limited to approved service animals and support animals. If any animal is or appears to be unaccompanied or a stray, or if the owner cannot be found or determined upon investigation by the campus/city police or safety officers, the animal may be impounded.

5.0 Employee Adherence

All University faculty, staff, students, and visitors are expected to comply with all federal and state laws, the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning policy and bylaws, and University policies, including but not limited to this stated policy to help ensure campus safety and normal functional operation of the University.