UCLA Policy 135: Pets on Campus

Issuing Officer: Assistant Vice Chancellor, General Services
Responsible Dept: Environment, Health & Safety
Effective Date: August 18, 2003
Supersedes: Campus Policy Relating to Dogs on Campus, dated February 17, 1970

I. REFERENCES

1. City of Los Angeles Municipal Code, Chapter V, Article 3, § 53.06.02 – Restraint of Dogs;
2. UC Policies Applying to Campus Activities, Organizations, and Students - Section 40.00, Policy on the Use of University Properties;
3. California Health and Safety Code, § 114045;
4. State of California Penal Code § 365.5 and 597s;
5. UCLA Office of Residential Life, Student Handbook, Section B11, Pets.

II. PURPOSE

Members of the campus community and visitors to the campus may bring their dogs or other pet animals to the campus from time to time. While this practice is not prohibited, some regulation of the presence of pets on campus is necessary to insure that one’s pet does not become a threat, nuisance, or significant distraction to others or to activities occurring on the campus. State and local regulations provide the basis for University policies whose intent is to ensure that campuses are protected from potential health and safety hazards posed by unattended dogs on campus property or dogs and other pet animals brought into campus facilities without proper authorization.

This Policy is intended to clarify under what conditions dogs or other pets may be allowed on campus property and in campus facilities and supersedes the similar policy dated February 17, 1970. This policy supplements and does not replace other applicable federal, State, and local laws and regulations governing the presence of dogs and other pets on public property (so-called “leash” laws) or in eating establishments, and applies equally to faculty, staff, students, and other visitors to the campus. Refer to the Student Handbook (see Reference #5, above) for information regarding pets in residence halls and suites.

III. STATEMENT

Pet owners bringing their pets to campus are expected to be mindful that their pets may constitute real or perceived health threats to others, especially in confined or closed spaces. Such threats may include allergies, falls, and bites. Children and the elderly may be especially susceptible. In addition, the presence of a pet in an area may distract or interrupt certain activities, or may create a nuisance, including the nuisance caused by pet waste or damage to property.

Accordingly, all pet owners bringing pets to campus are required to exercise reasonable control over their pets in order to minimize risks to others and property. All pet owners are required to clean up after their animals. In addition, the following rules apply to those who bring dogs on the campus.

A. Dogs on Campus – Restraints and Requirements

The UCLA campus shall adhere to the intent of the City of Los Angeles Municipal Code regulations concerning the restraint of dogs (leash laws), related statutes of the State of California Penal Code (animal cruelty and rights of the disabled) and with UC policies concerning the use of University facilities.
1. Dogs may not be brought onto campus except when:
   • under the control of a competent person and restrained by a substantial chain or leash not exceeding six feet in length, or
   • securely and safely confined to a vehicle, and as specified in the State of California Penal Code, § 597.7.

2. Dogs may not be tethered unattended on campus for any period of time.

3. Dogs or other animals may not be intentionally abandoned on campus property. Abandonment of any animal anywhere is a cruel and illegal act under California’s anti-cruelty statutes.

4. Dogs (leashed or otherwise) are not permitted in any campus building or campus transportation vehicle (Campus Shuttle, Fleet vehicles, etc.), except for:
   • police dogs and guide, signal, and service dogs used by disabled persons (as defined by California Civil Code § 54.1), and in accordance with the California Health and Safety Code;
   • dogs or other animals involved in authorized research; and
   • special circumstances which must be approved in advance by the Director, UCLA Environment, Health and Safety.

5. Dogs are not allowed in any residence halls or suites, except for police dogs and guide, signal and service dogs, as described above.

6. Dogs must have a valid dog license as evidence of current rabies vaccinations.

7. Owners are responsible for disposing of any fecal waste left by their dog(s) on campus property.

8. Dogs on campus in violation of this policy may be subject to apprehension and impounding by the Los Angeles City or County department of animal control. Owners of such impounded dogs are responsible for any fees or fines that may subsequently be assessed by the city or county.

B. Responsibilities

All employees, students and visitors are expected to abide by this Policy. Staff, faculty and students are encouraged to resolve perceived violations of this Policy locally whenever possible.

Questions concerning this Policy may be referred to UCLA Environment, Health and Safety, (310) 825-5689, or the UCLA Police Department, (310) 825-1491. Questions concerning the UCLA Medical Center Policy on Service Animals, Therapy Animals and Pets may be referred to UCLA Medical Center, (310) 206-4707.

Issuing Officer

/s/ Jack Powazek

Assistant Vice Chancellor, General Services

Questions concerning this policy or procedure should be referred to the Responsible Department listed at the top of this document.