



The John Knoblock
Faculty Senate Office
Ashe Administration Building, #325
1252 Memorial Drive
Coral Gables, FL 33146

facsen@miami.edu
web site: www.miami.edu/fs
P: 305-284-3721
F: 305-284-5515

MEMORANDUM

To: Julio Frenk
University President

From: Tomás A. Salerno
Chair, Faculty Senate

Date: May 4, 2018

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2017-42 (B) – Policy on Pets on Campus

The Faculty Senate, at its April 18, 2018 meeting, voted by majority to approve the enclosed Policy on Pets on Campus.

This legislation is sent to you for your action.


TAS/rh

Enclosure

cc: Jeffrey Duerk, Executive Vice President and Provost
Patricia Whitely, Vice President, Student Affairs
All Academic Deans

CAPSULE: Faculty Senate Legislation #2017-42 (B) – Policy on Pets on Campus

PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE

APPROVED:  DATE: 5/14/18
(President's Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: Jeffrey Duerk, Executive VP and Provost

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: IMMEDIATELY (Pending any additional required Board of Trustees approval)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: _____

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): _____

Policy on Pets on Campus – Proposed Draft

PURPOSE

Pets are the source of much enjoyment and companionship to their owners and members of the University community. However, pets may also pose a concern or threat to the health and safety of the campus community and/or disrupt campus operations.

To explore the proper balance of allowing pets on campus while recognizing the need to ensure that all faculty, staff, students, and visitors could safely utilize our campus facilities and participate in the myriad of services offered by the university, an ad hoc committee of faculty and administrators was created at the Provost's request. The committee was convened in response to multiple and increasing complaints from students, faculty, and staff as to the seemingly unchecked presence of pets in multiple university facilities. The complaints included anecdotes of pets left alone in university offices, pets soiling university meeting rooms, and individuals afraid of entering certain areas because of the possible presence of pets. In developing a policy on pets, the ad hoc committee sought to harmonize, when possible, the foregoing concerns and also sought to avoid any situation where, as a result of an asymmetrical power relationship, an individual would feel uncomfortable or unable to ask another member of the University community to refrain from bringing a pet into a University facility.

DEFINITIONS

Pets shall mean a domestic or tamed animal or bird kept for companionship or pleasure. Animals prohibited by Miami-Dade County ordinance or any other applicable law or regulation cannot be pets.

University Facility shall mean any building owned, operated, leased, or maintained by the University of Miami in any of its campuses or satellite clinics.

POLICY

Pets are permitted throughout the outside areas of the University's Coral Gables campus provided they are leashed and under the direct control of their owners. Owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets while on the Coral Gables campus and must appropriately dispose of any waste. Owners will also be responsible for any damage caused by their pets while on campus.

Pets are not permitted in, or within, any University Facility. Pets are also not permitted in Osceola Lake, any swimming pool or bathing place, or at any athletic event.

Individuals with extenuating circumstances who wish to bring pets onto to a University Facility or any other place or event precluded by this policy may request an exception from the Provost, or his designee. In considering the exception, the Provost, or his designee, will consider the nature of the extenuating circumstances, the ability of others occupying shared and neighboring spaces to use their areas without disruption or interference, and any relevant health and safety concerns.

VIOLATIONS OF THIS POLICY

Permission to have pets on campus is a privilege, not a right. The failure to follow this policy will result in revocation of the privilege and could subject the individual to further disciplinary measures by the University.

NON-APPLICABILITY OF THIS POLICY

This policy shall not apply to service animals, as such a term is defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. A service animal pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act is defined as a dog or a miniature horse that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual'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 sound; providing non-violent protection or rescue work; pulling a wheelchair; assisting an individual during a seizure; alerting individuals to the presence of allergens; 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.

This policy shall also not apply to assistance animals, including emotional support animals, pursuant to the Fair Housing Act. An assistance animal is defined by the Fair Housing Act as an animal that works, provides assistance, or performs tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability or provides emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's disability. For purposes of the Fair Housing Act, only the University's residential dorms will be considering housing facilities. As required by the Fair Housing Act, assistance animals, including emotional support animals, will only be allowed in the University's residential dorms.

The policies and procedures governing service and assistance animals at the University of Miami are set forth at: <https://www.camnercenter.miami.edu/disability-services/accessibility/assistance-animals/index.html>.

This policy shall also not apply to animals used for research that has been approved through the appropriate University policies and procedures. Please contact the Office of Disability Services for further information as to service animals or assistance animals.

Lastly, this policy shall also not apply to Residential Faculty, Area Director, and Assistant Area Director apartments in a University housing facility.