

Guidelines for Animals in University Buildings

Purpose

To define the guidelines governing the presence of non-laboratory animals in University buildings. It is designed to control disruptions, nuisances, and potential health hazards created by animals.

General Guidelines

All animals are prohibited from being kept, harbored, or maintained in any University building with the exception of laboratory animals, those permitted in housing agreements, Police K-9s, Service Animals (e.g. seeing eye dogs utilized for or by persons with visual impairment, dogs specially trained to assist the hearing impaired, other animals which assist people with disabilities), and animals used in teaching or research.

The presence of animals in University buildings has had, in many cases, an adverse effect on the normal functions of the University by causing bodily harm to individuals, unsanitary conditions, and nuisances as well as disrupting the campus educational and administrative processes. Owners/users are responsible for the proper storage and care, maintenance, safety, and use of permitted animals on campus and any associated housekeeping, feed, animal housing, equipment, and wastes. Note: Animals used for academic purposes (e.g. laboratory animals or those used for teaching and research) are governed by procedures which are administered by the TU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

These guidelines are in effect in accordance with TU Policy 06-18.00 - Animals on Campus Policy. This policy will be administered and enforced by the Towson University Police Department (TUPD), in cooperation with the Towson University Department of Environmental Health & Safety (EHS). Violation of this policy by an employee or student of the University may result in disciplinary action under appropriate personnel policy and procedures, and student conduct procedures. Any person who is found to be in violation of this policy shall immediately remove such animal from the building in question at the request of the TUPD or EHS. Failure to comply with this request will result in the impoundment of the animal by the Baltimore County Animal Control Division. Animals will also be impounded after a reasonable local search conducted by EHS and/or the TUPD finds no owner in attendance. Owners of impounded animals will be held responsible for payment of any impoundment and/or license fees required to secure the release of the animal. Owners of animals on University property shall be liable for the expenses of all damages incurred by the animals.

For information or guidance regarding the guidelines or TU Policy, contact TUPD or EHS using listed contact information below.