Policy Title: Animals on Campus

Purpose:
It is the policy of the College to provide a safe environment for all students, employees, visitors and guests by establishing and enforcing regulations for animals in campus buildings.

Definitions:
Owner/Handler: A person with a disability who is assisted by a service animal or a personal care attendant who handles an animal for a person with a disability.

Service Animals: Any dog* 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 and meets the definition of “service animal” under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations 28 CFR 35.104. The work or tasks performed must directly be related to the individual’s disability.

Examples 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, 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. 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.

*Under particular circumstances set forth in the ADA regulations 28 CFR 35.136(i), a miniature horse may qualify as a service animal.

Emotional Support Animal: An emotional support animal (ESA) is a companion animal that provides therapeutic benefit, such as alleviating or mitigating some symptoms of the disability, to an individual with a mental or psychiatric disability. ESAs are typically dogs and cats, but may include other animals. In order to be prescribed an ESA by a physician or other medical professional, the person seeking such an animal must have a verifiable disability. To be afforded protection under the United States federal law, a person must meet the federal definition of disability and that the emotional support animal provides a benefit for the individual with the disability. An animal does not need specific training to become an ESA.
An ESA is one that is necessary to afford the person with a disability an equal opportunity to use and enjoy College housing. ESAs do not perform work or tasks that would qualify them as service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act and are not allowed on campus. ESA that are not service animals under the ADA may still be permitted, in certain circumstances, in College housing pursuant to the Fair Housing Act.

**Pet:** A pet is an animal kept for ordinary use and companionship. A pet is not considered a service or emotional support animal. Pets are not permitted in College facilities and any pets on the grounds must be under appropriate restraint (leash, cage, etc.) and must be in close proximity to the owner at all times. The College may, at its discretion, require the removal of pets on its grounds for any reason, including but not limited to, failure to be appropriately restrained.

**Policy:**
It is the policy of Minnesota State Community and Technical College to provide a safe environment for all students, employees, visitors and guests by establishing and enforcing regulations for animals on campus. With the exception of service animals for persons with disabilities and/or the written permission of the Campus Designee, Academic Dean or Student Development Services Dean, animals are not allowed in campus buildings.

This policy and any related procedures apply to all buildings and all members of the campus community, as well as all individuals using campus buildings, including leased properties. If a service animal poses a substantial and direct threat to the health or safety of others on campus, the college may elect to not permit the animal to be on campus. Also, should the service animal’s presence fundamentally alter the nature of the program or service provided, the college may not permit the service animal’s presence on campus or it request the removal of the service animal. These determinations are made on a case-by-case basis.

Animals and animal cadavers utilized for teaching and learning are exempt from this policy.

**Safety Expectations Related to Service Animals**

**Vaccinations:** The animal must have current immunization against diseases, including rabies, distemper and parvovirus or the appropriate vaccination series for the type of animal. Dogs must wear a rabies vaccination tag.

**Owner ID:** The animal must wear an owner identification tag, including the owner name and contact information, any time the animal is on campus.

**Health:** The animal must be in good health.

**Leash:** The animal must be leashed and under the control of the owner-handler at all times.

**Training:** Service animals must be properly trained. An owner of a service animal may be asked to provide verification that the animal has been individually trained as a service animal if the animal is misbehaving and/or causing a commotion that is not related to providing a needed service to the owner/handler.

**Care:** The care and supervision of the animal is solely the responsibility of its owner/handler.
**Cleanup:** The owner/handler is responsible for cleaning up animal waste unless the owner/handler is physically not able to perform the cleanup. If an individual with a disability is not able to clean up after a service animal, arrangements should be made with campus maintenance services to designate a specific toileting area.

**Student Housing:** Pets are not allowed in M State student housing. If there is an unauthorized animal on the premises and the resident fails to remove it within 24 hours of being notified the animal must be removed, the College will contact local animal control personnel to remove the animal. Students will be fined $100 plus the cost incurred for repairing property. Emotional Support Animals may be allowed in student housing at the discretion and approval of the College.

**Associated Policies:**
Minnesota State system Board Policy 1B.4 Access for Individuals with Disabilities.

**Associated Procedures:**

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**Policy History:**

*Policy Owner:* Chief Finance Officer  
*Policy Author:* Shawn Anderson  
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*Policy Group Assignment:* Facilities Management  
*Procedure Written:*