

Animals on Campus Policy

1. Aim

This Policy details the University's approach towards animals on campus.

2. Scope

This Policy applies to all staff, students, visitors and contractors and to all University campuses, buildings, vehicles, grounds, and residences.

3. Definitions

(i). **Service Dog.** A Service Dog is primarily a working animal which has been specifically trained to assist persons with a disability. For an animal to be recognised by the University as a Service Dog it must be fully trained and registered with one of the following or an international equivalent:

- (a) Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind,
- (b) Dogs for the Disabled,
- (c) Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland.

Service Dog owners are expected to be in a position to provide sufficient documentary evidence that their dogs meet these criteria and are necessary to meet their personal needs. The University will have the final decision as to whether a specific animal meets the definition of a Service Dog.

(ii). **University Premises.** Any building, vehicle, structure or residence owned or managed by the University.

(iii). **University Grounds.** Open areas on any University managed site outside of *University Premises*.

4. Exclusions

This Policy does not apply to

- (i) any animal used as part of the University's research and teaching programmes (providing such use is compliant with relevant University ethical and animal welfare policies),
- (ii) animals used in the course of duty by Gardaí or other members of the emergency services,
- (iii) Animals (including birds) associated with specific outdoor events or activities, subject to the event or activity being approved in advance by the General Services Officer / General Services Duty Officers and the Office of Corporate and Legal Affairs (OCLA), and an appropriate, location specific, event management plan and risk assessment being completed and adhered to by the UCC sponsor.

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5. Policy

It is the University's policy that, subject to the limited exception given below, live animals are generally not allowed into any *University Premises*.

Dogs and cats may be brought onto *University Grounds*, subject to the following criteria:

- (i) The animal must be kept under the control of a responsible adult at all times; dogs must be kept on a leash at all times.
- (ii) Owners must take responsibility (consistent with reasonable capacity) for the clean-up of animal waste and its proper disposal in external general refuse bins.
- (iii) The owner is responsible for the actions of the animal whilst present on UCC grounds. Animals must not be allowed to make a nuisance of themselves or interfere with traffic, other animals or persons. In such circumstances, owners of any such animals may be directed to remove them from *University Grounds*.
- (iv) Animals must not be kept confined in a vehicle for an extended period. In the event that University staff are of the opinion that an animal kept in a vehicle is in distress the Gardaí may be contacted.
- (v) If, in the opinion of University personnel, a dog on University property is of a breed specified under current Control Of Dogs legislation, the owner will be directed to ensure that the animal is muzzled at all times or immediately removed from *University Grounds*.

5.1 Limited Exception

Service Dogs are welcome in the company of their registered owner, as far as reasonably practicable, in any *University Premises* or *University Grounds* to which their owner normally has authorised access. This limited exception may be necessarily restricted by the exigencies of specific premises or areas and the University's obligation to ensure compatibility with the requirements of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 (and associated Regulations and Codes of Practice) with regard to the protection of the safety and health of all University employees and third parties*.

*In particular, the suitability and ventilation of shared work or study areas must be taken into account in advance, as well as the possibility of the *Service Dog* encroaching upon or becoming a hazard to access and egress at any stage to others in the place of work, including in an emergency situation.