



## Policy Title: Animals on Campus

Parent Policy	None
Policy Administrator	Associate Vice President, Campus Operations & Executive Director, People & Culture
Approving Body	Executive Leadership Team
Approval History	2025-01-28 ELT (amalgamation of 4 separate animal-related policies approved in 2019)

### Purpose:

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Define four specific types of domesticated animals that may be permitted to access campus;
- Clarify the difference in access and activities between the various types of domesticated animals on campus;
- Clarify the departments responsible for approving, monitoring, and removing and reporting on various types of animals on campus.

### Scope of this Policy:

Students, staff, faculty, and visitors on TWU owned or operated property.

### Policy Statement:

Access of domesticated animals to TWU campuses or property is a privilege which is regulated. Four types of domesticated animals may be permitted to access campus:

1. A **guide dog team, service dog team, or guide/service dog-in-training team** may access publicly accessible parts of campus and campus locations where their work or school activities are located.
2. If approved by TWU Housing, an **emotional support animal** for a student with a severe disability has access to the student's residence room and some parts of outdoor campus property. Emotional support animal requests, approvals, and boundaries for TWU employees are overseen by People & Culture.
3. **Therapy** animals may be allowed on some parts of outdoor campus property and into campus buildings as registered therapy dogs or as an event therapy animal by invitation for specifically approved events
4. Health, sanitation, and general consideration for others prohibit the keeping of **pets** on campus by students. Only fish in 19 L or smaller aquariums are permitted inside campus buildings. Pets may be permitted on some outdoor campus areas, in accordance with requirements provided in the Animals on Campus procedures.

Procedures for this policy provide important parameters for animal access to campus. All individuals bringing animals onto campus are expected to be familiar with and abide by them.

**Definitions:**

A **guide dog/service dog** holds a guide dog/service dog certificate from the BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. These dogs assist people with disabilities to open doors, navigate public spaces, and alert them to sounds, among other tasks.

An **emotional support animal** is a specific, trained, adult animal that is part of a current treatment plan for a student with a severe disability. Emotional support animal requests are a complex process, must consider possible impacts to the student and community, and require detailed rationale from the diagnosing physician and the student.

A **therapy animal** is a trained, affectionate animal that provides enjoyment and helps to develop a positive state of mind in the people with whom they come in contact. A therapy animal's purpose is primarily to provide these benefits to others and not to the person responsible for the animal. Employees who wish to use a therapy animal for regular, ongoing therapeutic work (e.g., an employee who offers counselling services wishes to use a dog in sessions with students) must have prior approval from their immediate supervisor to ensure the animal will appropriately serve the purposes of the therapeutic work.

**IACC:** Institutional Animal Care Committee. If any of the employee's work with the animal relates to teaching or research, the employee must also have the approval of the Institutional Animal Care Committee (IACC).

**Pets:** are defined as any animal cared for by an employee, student, or visitor that is not a guide/service dog, emotional support animal or brought to campus for a therapeutic event.

**References:**

[Guide Dog and Service Dog Certification](#)

[Guide Dog and Service Dog Act \(BC\)](#)

**Procedures:** See Procedures for SCE 3-02 Animals on Campus

See SCE 3-02 Application Form for Therapy Animal Event

**Child Policies:** None

**Other Related Policies:** [Animal Care](#)