

SUNY COBLESKILL POLICY ON PRIVATELY OWNED ANIMALS ON CAMPUS

All privately owned animals present on campus are covered by this policy. The animal owner is responsible for knowing, understanding and abiding by this policy. The College is responsible for dissemination and enforcement of this policy.

Service Animals

A service animal is a working animal, not a pet. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a service animal as “any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability.” Dogs that satisfy this definition are considered service animals under the ADA regardless of whether they have been licensed or certified by a state or local government or other entity.

Under the ADA and New York law, facilities that serve the public may not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. A service animal must be permitted in all areas of the facility where customers are allowed or the public is invited. The College may limit the use of service animals in certain locations only where their use may compromise the safety or integrity of a program or research, or if the animal is out of control or not housebroken and the animal’s handler does not control it. Students who will be bringing a service animal to live in a residence hall are asked to notify the campus Accessibility Resources Coordinator so that appropriate accommodations can be made. Service animals living in residence halls must have an annual clean bill of health from a licensed veterinarian.

Pets and Other Visiting Animals

In consideration of personal safety and sanitation, all pets (privately owned animals not described elsewhere in this policy) are strictly prohibited from the College’s building interior spaces including, but not limited to: classrooms, office buildings and offices, corridors, laboratories, residence halls, etc. Pets are permitted during a temporary visit in designated areas of the campus grounds provided:

- They are leashed and under the physical control of their owners at all times.
- They remain outdoors at all times.
- Owners collect and dispose of animal waste promptly.

Only fish in bowls and/or aquariums are permitted in office areas and in residence hall rooms. Tanks in residence halls are limited to a maximum of 20 gallons and one tank per resident.

Emotional Support and Therapy Dogs

Emotional Support Animals (ESAs) may be present in the approved owner’s residence hall bedroom and specific outdoor areas as authorized by the Residential Life Office. ESAs may accompany students to their counseling appointments at the Wellness Center as long as the animal is well behaved and not disruptive to others. All ESAs must be restrained (by leash or carrier) while in the Wellness Center.

The SUNY Cobleskill Canine/Therapy Dog Program also provides regular therapy dog visits at the Wellness Center, following the policies and procedures described below.

Dogs in the Canine Training and Management Program

Dogs in the Canine program are allowed in all outdoor areas and in facilities specifically designated for the program. Program dogs may also be allowed in predetermined areas throughout the campus with

permission from the Director of Facilities Management or VP for Operations and with the Instructor present. Signage will be posted on building entrances that reads “K-9 Training in Progress.”

K-9 program dogs are tested for health and temperament by program staff. When program dogs are not actively participating in the program and are on campus, they must be housed in campus kennels or be crated in faculty and staff offices,*or, when approved as emotional support animals, in student bedrooms.

Program dogs may also be transported in campus vehicles assigned to the program.

Animals in Campus Vehicles:

Animals, except service animals, are NOT allowed in campus fleet vehicles, unless a specific exception is granted by the Director of Facilities Management or the Vice President for Operations. Dogs involved in the Canine Training and Management program may be transported in campus vehicles assigned to the program. Mobleskill is exempt from this policy. Dogs must be appropriately crated or secured in College vehicles.

On-duty Police Dogs

On-duty police dogs are exempt from this policy.

Identification of Animals

Owners of animals in the Canine Studies Program, Service Animals and Emotional Support Animals are requested to have their animals wear identification, as described on the attached chart. Vests will be provided free of charge by the individual/office specified in the attached chart.

**SUNY COBLESKILL PRIVATELY OWNED ANIMALS ON CAMPUS Terminology
For Internal Use Only**

| TERMINOLOGY | TYPE OF ANIMAL | IDENTIFICATION REQUESTED/REQUIRED | RESOURCES FOR VESTS, INFORMATION AND CONCERNS | AREAS ALLOWED ON CAMPUS |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--|--|---|
| Service Animals | Dog or Miniature Horse | None or vest saying “service dog” | Wendi Richards, Assistant Director, Educational Support Services (518.255.5870) | All facilities, including dining facilities |
| Emotional Support Animals (ESA) | Any | Vest/Collar/Leash saying “ESA” (Recommended) | Animal Owner/ Residence Hall Director/ AVP Student Affairs Edward Asselin (518.255.5215) | Owner bedroom, designated outdoor areas |
| Canine Studies Program Animals | Dog | Vest or bandana saying “Cobleskill K-9” | Animal Owner/Canine Studies Faculty (McCraith – 518-.255.5441 or Mackenzie – 518.255.5671) | Canine Training Facility, Kennels, |

| | | | | |
|-----|-----|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| | | | Department Chair (Lynn Dunn – 518.255.5670) HR (518.255.5432) | crated in offices* |
| Pet | Any | As required by local ordinance | UPD (518.255.5317) HR (518.255.5423) | Designated outdoor areas only |

***Faculty and staff members with dogs participating in the Canine Studies Program must obtain permission to crate a dog in their office from their supervisors each semester.**

Support and Enforcement

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|---|---|------------------------------|
| Emergencies and other immediate assistance | University Police | 518.255.5317 |
| Damage to facilities or grounds | Facilities Management | 518.255.5228 |
| Service Animals | Accessibility Resources | 518.255.5282 |
| Animal bites and attacks | University Police Environmental Health and Safety | 518.255.5317 518.255.5411 |
| Animal nuisance complaints | University Police Human Resources | 518.255.5317 518.255.5423 |
| Residence Hall policies and requirements | Residential Life | 518.255.5215 |
| Support for students and staff who are fearful of dogs or other animals | Students – Wellness Center Faculty/Staff – EAP Coordinator | 518.255.5525 518.255.5369 |
| Questions | Vice President for Operations | 518.255.5402 |

Wellness Center Therapy / ESA Dog Policy

POLICY

Studies have shown that spending time with animals can have physical and mental health benefits including, but not limited to:

Physical Benefits of Therapy Dogs

- lowers blood pressure
- improves cardiovascular health
- releases calming endorphins (oxytocin)
- lowers overall physical pain
- the act of petting an animal produces an automatic relaxation response, which is believed to reduce the amount of medication needed by some people

Mental Health Benefits of Therapy Dogs

- lifts spirits and lessens depression
- lowers feelings of isolation and alienation
- encourages communication
- provides comfort
- increases socialization

- lessens boredom
- reduces anxiety
- aids children in overcoming speech and emotional disorders
- creates motivation for the client to recover faster
- reduces loneliness

With these benefits in mind, the Wellness Center will partner with the SUNY Cobleskill Canine/Therapy Dog Program to provide the campus community access to regular therapy dog visits at the Wellness Center. Additionally, the Wellness Center will support the use of Emotional Support Animals to help facilitate counseling services.

PROCEDURE

The following conditions will apply to the therapy dog visits:

1. Therapy Dog Teams will be certified through [Therapy Dog International](#) (or equivalent certifying agency) and will carry insurance through the certifying agency.
2. The Therapy Dog Handlers will include students and staff who have received their certification through Therapy Dog International (or equivalent certifying agency).
3. Therapy Dog Teams will be scheduled to visit the Wellness Center for 1 - 1 ½ hour blocks during operating hours (Monday-Friday, 8-4:15). Schedules will be posted in various locations and may be subject to change.
4. Therapy dog visits will occur in the Wellness Center front conference room, which is adjacent to the main lobby. This will eliminate concerns about confidentiality as this is an accessible location to all and will not take place in the treatment areas. This will also limit the interaction for students who are not comfortable with dogs.
5. There will be a sign posted on the main door during Therapy Dog visits advising students that the visits are occurring.
6. This program will be open to all students who wish to visit with the therapy dogs during the therapy dog's scheduled time.
7. It will be beneficial to host these regular visits at the Wellness Center in the event a student requires physical/mental health services during their visit. They can be directly referred through the Triage process without the need to accompany them elsewhere on campus.
8. These therapy dog visits will be in addition to the existing program conducted during finals prep week in collaboration with CASE.

Since counseling can be emotionally difficult, the Wellness Center supports students having their Emotional Support Animals (ESAs) accompany them to their counseling appointments at the Wellness Center as long as the animal is well behaved and not disruptive to others. All ESAs must be restrained (by leash or carrier) while in the Wellness Center.