



## Pets on Campus

### Pets on Campus Policy

*Approved by and date:*

*Board of Trustees* 04/09/2018

*Executive Leadership Team* 03/27/2018

#### Policy:

This policy allows for the presence of pets/service animals on campus in a way that provides for the restraint of these animals and also provides for the health and safety of Kilgore College students, faculty, staff, and visitors and for the protection of the College's property/assets.

The College, in its sole discretion, may terminate a pet owner's privilege to bring a pet on campus; for example if a pet is noisy, disruptive, aggressive, sick, or otherwise a nuisance. The Director of Human Resources will be responsible for determinations involving employees and the Vice President of Student Development for those involving students. The Director of Human Resources, in consultation with the Chief of Kilgore College Police Department (KCPD), will be responsible for determinations involving individuals not affiliated with the College.

#### Procedures:

*Approved by and date:*

*Executive Leadership Team* 03/27/2018

These procedures apply to all on-campus, College-controlled properties, including residence halls and all athletic facilities. Pets on campus can pose a significant risk to Kilgore College and its community. These procedures also standardizes the College's position on the management of animals on Kilgore College property.

#### Definitions

- a. College-controlled property - Property that is owned, operated, and/or maintained by the College.
- b. Service Animal - A guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. Police K-9s are also considered a service animal as well as other animals that work for emergency personnel.
- c. Pets at Large - An animal that is either unattended and/or unrestrained by its owner.

#### Health & Safety Concerns

Pets can pose various health and safety concerns to the campus community, such as allergic reactions to animal dander, excessive noise, animal bites, and disease/parasite transmission (i.e., fleas, ticks, viruses, bacteria, etc.). Individuals with a disability that requires the use of a service animal are at particular risk. For example, a dog running at large poses a hazard to an individual using a service dog, should there be a confrontation between the two animals.

All pets must be tagged, registered, and vaccinated in accordance with appropriate state, county, and/or city regulations.

#### Inside/Outside Facility Guidelines

It is prohibited to bring dogs, cats, or other pets inside any College-controlled buildings, including residence halls, except for the animals listed in the exemption section of this policy. While on College-controlled properties, pets (including service animals) must be maintained on a leash of six feet or shorter, on a restraining harness, or in a caged enclosure. With the exception of the animals listed in the exemption section, pets are not allowed in/on any athletic facilities (inside or outside). Pets will not be allowed (leashed or unleashed) at any special events or College functions (e.g., Homecoming, athletic venues, graduations, concerts, etc.) with the exception of any specific event that has been approved by the Chief of the Kilgore College Police Department (KCPD) or designee.

Pet owners are responsible for cleaning up any messes made by their pet. Anyone who brings a pet on College-controlled property assumes all financial responsibility for any damages to property or injury to individuals caused by the animal.

Pets may not be tethered to College buildings, structures, motor vehicles, trees, railings, light poles, benches, posts, or other structures.

#### Prohibited Animals (non-service)

Animals such as poisonous reptiles, constricting snakes (e.g., Boas, Pythons, and Anacondas) and other potentially dangerous or aggressive animals are prohibited from all College-controlled property (inside and outside) at all times, except those used in accepted academic purposes.

Additionally, pets at large and non-domesticated animals are prohibited.

#### Failure to Comply

- a. Prohibited Animals on College-controlled Property: Any prohibited animals on a College-controlled property must be removed immediately. If a prohibited animal is observed on a College-controlled property, administrative sanctions (for employees), campus citations and/or disciplinary actions (for students), or exclusion from the campus by criminal trespass (for members of the public) may be imposed for policy violations.

Kilgore College Police Department will enforce this policy.

- b. Unattended or Unrestrained Animals: If an unrestrained/unattended animal is observed, a reasonable attempt will be made to locate the animal's owner. If the owner is located, he/she may face administrative sanctions (for employees), campus citations and/or disciplinary actions (for students), or exclusion from the campus by criminal trespass (for members of the public). If attempts to find the animal's owner are unsuccessful, the City of Kilgore Animal Control will be contacted; and they will remove the animal from College property.

Kilgore College Police Department will enforce this policy.

- c. Property Damage: The College will seek restitution for any animal-related damage to College-controlled property, facilities, or grounds. The repair or replacement cost of damaged property is the sole responsibility of the owner of the animal that caused the damage.

## Exempted Pets and Other Animals

The animals listed below are permitted inside College-controlled property:

- a. Service animals
- b. Fish in containers of five gallons or less
- c. On-duty police K-9s or rescue dogs
- d. Visiting college mascots
- e. College approved animals being used for academic purposes (e.g., demonstrations, speeches, etc.). Approval for this exemption begins with the Chief of KCPD or designee.

Although these animals are permitted within the buildings and facilities, said animals must remain under the control of the owner at all times. The care or supervision of an exempted animal is solely the responsibility of the owner. Kilgore College reserves the right to exclude an exempted animal whose behavior poses a threat to the health or safety of others. More information on service animal guidelines and expectations are available of the Kilgore College Disability Services webpage.