

Pets in Engineering School Buildings Policy

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Oversight Executive: Chief Operating Officer

Applies to: School of Engineering and Applied Science

Definitions:

Pet: A domestic or tamed animal kept for enjoyment or companionship.

Reason for Policy

Members of the University community and visitors bring their dogs or other pet animals to the grounds on occasion. While this practice is not prohibited, the regulation of the presence of pets in Engineering School buildings is necessary so that one's pet does not become a threat, nuisance, or significant distraction to others or to activities occurring in the Engineering School.

This policy clarifies under what conditions dogs or other pets may be allowed in Engineering School buildings so as to maintain the Engineering School as a productive, safe, and clean environment in which to study, conduct research, work and visit. The presence of pets in classrooms, work areas, and research areas: (1) can be disruptive and unsanitary; (2) may compromise the safety and health of faculty, staff, students, and visitors; and (3) may expose the university to legal liability (for example, if a dog bites someone).

Policy Statement:

All faculty, staff, students, and visitors who are pet owners that would like to bring a pet into an Engineering School building must have prior written approval. Engineering School Buildings include but are not limited to:

- Aerospace Research Laboratory
- Chemical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Rice Hall
- Olsson Hall
- Observatory Mountain Engineering and Research Facility (OMERF) Small Hall
- Thornton Hall
- Wilsdorf Hall

Pet owners are expected to be mindful that their pets may constitute real or perceived health threats to others, especially in confined or closed spaces. Such threats may include allergies, falls, and bites. In addition, the presence of a pet in an area may distract or interrupt certain activities, or may create a nuisance, including the nuisance caused by noise, pet waste or damage to property.

Accordingly, all pet owners bringing pets into Engineering School buildings are required to exercise reasonable control over their pets in order to minimize risks to others and property. While on Engineering School property, pets must be attended and controlled at all times. All pet owners are required to clean up after their animals.

Approval to bring pets into Engineering School buildings can be revoked by the designated approval authority if the pet is found to be causing a health or safety problem, or other general nuisance for people in the building. Exceptions to the above provision for prior written approval include: (1) a service animal used by a person with a disability (e.g., blind, hearing impaired, or other disability-assistance purposes; and (2) animals brought to the University for the purpose of University-sponsored research.

This policy supplements and does not replace any other applicable federal, State, University, and local laws and regulations governing the presence of dogs and other pets on public property. It is the responsibility of the pet owner to be knowledgeable of and abide by all laws and regulations governing the presence of pets on public property.

Procedures:

Written permission to bring a pet into an Engineering School building must be obtained from:

- a Department Chair for department faculty, staff , students, and visitors; or
- the Associate Dean for Finance and Operations for Office of the Dean faculty, staff, students, and visitors.

Complete and submit a Pets in Engineering School Buildings Approval form to the appropriate individual noted above.