

# Pets on Campus Policy

**Category:** Operations

**Approval:** PVP

**Responsibility:** Human Resources

**Date initially Approved:** May 30, 2016

**Date Revised:** October 15, 2019; May 2022; October 25, 2023

## Definitions:

**AODA** – Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act

**Campus** – Refers to all property owned, leased or rented by Trent University, including Symons campus, Traill campus, Trent Durham, the Windy Pine property and the Oliver Ecological Centre, and any buildings or dwellings located on those properties.

**Handler:** Any person who brings a pet onto campus.

**Laboratories:** Spaces used for scientific purposes where chemicals, biologicals, radioactive, hazardous materials or sensitive scientific equipment or instruments are in use. Pets are not allowed in laboratories where research animals are handled or in Level 2 or higher laboratories. Spaces used for study or interviews are not considered laboratories under this policy.

**Library:** That portion of a building in which library services are provided, including the second floor of the Bata Library building and above.

**Pets:** Any animal kept for companionship or pleasure, that is not prohibited by the municipalities in which Trent properties are located. The term ‘pet’ does not include service animals or animals used in teaching and research where approved by the University’s Animal Care Committee, but does include service animals in training and emotional support animals.

**Safekeeping:** The provision of such security in order to prevent an animal from attacking or injuring a person or another animal, causing psychological or mental harm to a person or another animal or exposing such person or animal to infection or disease, and also includes the provision of an environment wherein the animal cannot be injured or infected by the enclosure or restraint. In addition, the said enclosure or restraint shall not cause psychological or mental harm to the animal, which shall be ascertained by the distress caused to the animal in the said enclosure, so determined by a veterinarian or other animal care expert.

**Service Animals:** Any animal that is used by a person with a disability for reasons related to that disability. In accordance with [Ontario provincial law set out in the AODA](#), a service animal can be identified in two ways: The animal can be easily identified as one that is being used to support a disability, by such visual indicators as a service animal vest or harness. Or the handler can provide documentation from a regulated health professionals confirming that the handler requires the animal for reasons relating to a disability.

**Purpose/Reason for Policy:**

Trent University is committed to providing a safe, healthy and hygienic environment. The University regulates the presence of animals, including pets, service animals, and service animals in training at University Facilities in order to maintain sanitation, health regulations, and the health, safety and security of all Trent employees, visitors, contractors, volunteers and other animals. Accordingly, this policy is intended to limit potential hazards and ensure pets brought to campus, especially into buildings on campus, are properly controlled so that they do not pose a health and safety risk to any person or disrupt the operations of the University.

Any formal teaching or research with live animals requires an Animal Care Committee approved protocol. Failing to do so jeopardizes all Federal grant funding to Trent University as well as our license to work with live animals. Please contact the Office of Research and Innovation for more information.

**Scope of this Policy:**

This policy applies to all persons on Trent University campus and within buildings on campus.

Graduate student apartments, as governed by leases, are under the Residential Tenancies Act and, as such, are exempt from this policy.

This policy does not apply to service animals that have been registered with the University, in accordance with the *Service Animals on Campus* policy.

**Policy Statement:**

Pet handlers may occasionally bring their pet(s) into buildings on campus when necessary, and with permission from their supervisor. Pet owners are expected to respect the rights of others to engage in on-campus activities without disruption in a safe and healthy environment. It should not be the expectation that pets are brought into buildings on campus on a regular, ongoing basis.

Accordingly, pets are not permitted in Trent residence spaces, libraries, classrooms, laboratories, food service areas, Student Health Services, the Athletics Centre or Justin Chui stadium. Animals that have injured or threatened the safety of any person will not be permitted on campus.

Costs, including costs for overtime spent by caretaking to clean indoor spaces in which pets are kept, legal costs and damages arising from civil liability claims due to non-compliance with this policy, shall be the pet owner's responsibility.

Pet handlers assume full responsibility for safekeeping, controlling, and cleaning-up after their animals at all times while on campus.

Pet handlers are permitted to walk their pet on campus property and in Trent University Nature Areas in accordance with the applicable bylaws, including the requirement to be licensed and kept on leash at all times.

In special circumstances, approval may be obtained from the appropriate Vice President, Dean, or Department Head for pets or other animals to temporarily visit campus spaces, including residences, libraries, classrooms or food service areas for an event involving the display or demonstration of specialized skills or natural behaviours.

## **Responsibilities:**

### **When a pet is on campus, handlers are responsible to ensure that:**

- Before a pet handler brings their pet into any building, they must receive approval from their supervisor.
- Pets must not be left unattended while on campus.
- Animals are not brought into locations where they may be harmed or that may cause them distress.
- The standard of care for the animal is met at all times.
- Pets on campus are to be leashed and kept under the physical control of their handler at all times and not left unattended on university property.
- Pet excrement is immediately picked up, bagged and placed in an appropriate outdoor waste receptacle, and messes caused by animals in indoor spaces are promptly cleaned up.
- Pets brought on campus have up to date rabies and core inoculations as determined by the Ontario Veterinary Medicine Association, are free of disease and pests and are tagged and licensed in accordance with municipal bylaws.
- Pets do not disrupt the work, study, or other activities of others on campus.
- Handlers act in accordance with all local by-laws relating to animals, including the City of Peterborough Animal By-Law and the City of Oshawa Responsible Pet Owners By-Law
- Their pet is removed immediately when the handler is directed to do so by their supervisor, Campus Safety, Human Resources, or the Office of Human Rights, Equity and Accessibility due to health and safety concerns or other disruption issues.

**University supervisors, managers and unit heads** are responsible for the enforcement of this policy in their work units, and may direct a pet handler to remove their animal from the workplace if there are health and safety or workplace disruption concerns. Any conflicts will be taken to the Department of Human Resources or The Office of Human Rights, Equity, and Accessibility, depending on the nature of the conflict.

**Instructors, and / or laboratory managers** are responsible for the enforcement of this policy in their classrooms and laboratories.

**Human Resources** will also assist in conflict resolution relating to pets in campus buildings, as required. In the event of a health and safety concern, they will consult the Health and Safety Advisor to assess the risk before developing an individual accommodation plan.

**Student Affairs** are responsible to assess requests by students to bring pets into any building on campus. If permission is granted, information regarding the pet and handler will be shared with the appropriated parties, including Campus Safety, Caretaking, Student Housing, and others as necessary.

**The Office of Human Rights, Equity, and Accessibility** is responsible to review all cases where the issue of conflicting human rights and freedoms has been raised.

**Campus Safety** is responsible to enforce this policy on all Trent grounds and will assist supervisors and instructors with the enforcement of this policy as necessary.

**Contact Officer:**

Manager, Environmental, Health & Safety

**Date for Next Review:**

October 15, 2026

**Related Legislation, Policies, Procedures & Guidelines**

- a) Accommodation of Students with Disabilities
- b) Accommodation of Employees with Disabilities Health and Safety Policy
- c) Assistive Animals On Campus Policy
- d) The Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1990
- e) The Dog Owners Liability Act, 1990
- f) Residential Tenancies Act
- g) The City of Peterborough Animal By-Law 17-096
- h) The City of Oshawa Responsible Pet Owners By-Law 14-2010

**Policies Superseded by This Policy:**

- a) N/A