

Policy Name:	Animals on campus		
Policy No:	8.4	Approval Authority:	Senior Leadership Team
Volume	8, Facilities Management	Responsible Executive:	AVP Operations
Chapter	4, Animals on campus	Responsible Office:	Office of Facilities Management
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Policy Statement

The University regulates the presence of personal pets and domesticated animals in all University buildings in order to maintain a safe and healthy environment for students, faculty, staff and visitors. Personal pets are prohibited from inside all NSCAD buildings.

Exceptions to this policy are specially trained and licensed service animals, therapy animals or emotional support animals. Prior coordination and planning with the Office of Student Experience and/or Human Resources is required.

Reason for Policy

This policy is in place in order to safeguard the health and safety of all individuals who work and study at NSCAD University.

This policy is intended to:

- reduce the risk of adverse health concerns to individuals
- reduce indoor air quality concerns
- maintain the cleanliness of the buildings
- reduce individuals' anxieties (for those with fears or phobia) regarding domesticated animals

Policy Applies to

This policy applies to all individuals on campus at NSCAD University including but not limited to employees, students, contractors, volunteers, and visitors.

Who Should Read this Policy

- All members of the University community
- All regular staff and faculty members
- Students

Contacts

- Facilities Management
- Human Resources
- Office of Student Experience

Definitions

Emotional Support Animals – An emotional support animal (ESA) may be an animal of any species, the use of which is supported by a qualified psychiatrist or other mental health professional based upon a disability-related need. An ESA does not have to be trained to perform any particular task. ESAs do not qualify as service animals under the Nova Scotia Service Dog Act and aren't granted the same rights and privileges.

Handler – A person with a disability or a need who controls a service animal, emotional support animal or therapy animal. The handler may or may not be the owner of the animal.

Personal Pets – Any domesticated animal owned by faculty, staff, students or visitors by and/or attending the University that are not otherwise defined in this section.

Service Animals – Service animals are specifically trained, registered and licensed to assist a person with disabilities in their activities of independent living. Service animals are not considered to be personal pets, but rather an auxiliary aid. Service dog handlers who wish to be protected by the *Service Dog Act* have to apply for certification. Rights and responsibilities of service animals and their handlers are protected under the Nova Scotia Service Dog Act: <https://novascotia.ca/servicedogs/>.

Therapy Animals – A therapy animal is a type of animal which is part of an assisted intervention whereby an animal meeting specific criteria is an integral part of the goal-directed treatment process. Animal-assisted therapy is provided in a variety of settings and may be group or individual in nature.

The Policy

- 1 Personal Pets are prohibited on campus.
- 2 Service Animals and Emotional Support Animals:
 - 2.1 NSCAD is committed to the inclusion and accommodation of persons with disabilities. This includes the presence of Service Animals and Emotional Support Animals that assist students, employees or visitors on campus.
 - 2.2 Students must contact the Office of Student Experience to provide supporting documentation from a regulated health professional confirming that the person requires a support animal for reasons relating to a disability.
 - 2.3 Employees must contact Human Resources to provide supporting documentation from a regulated health professional confirming that the person requires a support animal for reasons relating to a disability.
 - 2.4 Rules and responsibilities, including related to Service Animals can be found here: <https://novascotia.ca/servicedogs/>
 - 2.5 Emotional Support Animals do not fall under the Nova Scotia Service Dogs act.
 - While they are not required to wear a vest or a scarf, NSCAD requires that the animal be identified in order to differentiate it from a pet. A scarf or harness with a tag as assistance animal or emotional support animal will suffice (N.B. it cannot say 'service dog' as it would be fraudulent and punishable by law).
 - If the animal is disruptive (noisy, damages property or works of art, etc.), the University reserves the right to ban the animal from campus.
- 3 Therapy Animal
 - 3.1 On occasion, a trained, licensed, insured therapy dog/animal is brought onto campus by an external service provider for the comfort, joy and companionship of students and employees. Therapy animals are allowed on campus using the external service provider. Prior approval and planning is

All policies are subject to amendment. Please refer to the NSCAD University Policy website (nscad.ca) for the official, most recent version.

- required with the AVP Operations to determine appropriateness, time, place and length of visit.
- 4 Basic Responsibilities (applies to all type of animals):
 - 4.1 The Handler must be in full control of the animal at all times, including but not limited to: use of a leash or carrier, as appropriate for the circumstance. The animal must not be a disruption to others.
 - 4.2 The care and supervision of a service animal is solely the responsibility of its Handler.
 - 4.3 The Handler is responsible for cleaning up the animal's waste. Should an incident happen inside a building, the Handler must pick up the waste and contact Facilities Management at facilities@nscad.ca so a proper clean up can be done subsequently.
 - 4.4 The Handler is responsible for damage caused by the animal; however, the University will only charge for damages if a person without an animal would be charged for the same type of damage.
 - 5 Research, teaching or art work using animals conducted by staff , faculty or students or involving University resources/ facilities, is prohibited.