

Employee Questions/Comments

2220-Animals in College Facilities and in College Vehicles

Employee 1 Questions/Comments:

Kind of a dumb addition but we do have hermit crabs and we have had a hamster down here for the children. But the classroom teacher is the one responsible for the animal. I know we are a different entity but we still want to follow the college policies. It might be good to add rodent to this description.

Employee 2 Questions/Comments:

I am really glad to see this!! I am not sure that I saw this, but service animals should have some kind of identifying vest or collar so you can visibly see that they are a service animal. Thanks!

Employee 3 Questions/Comments:

Under this policy XXX XXXXXX would not have been allowed to keep his falcon.

Employee 4 Questions/Comments:

I have a question to pose. That is, would the policy of allowing service animals for individuals with disabilities be extended to anyone who is training a service animal? Typically, but not always, service dogs in-training and their handlers have the same access rights. I can't tell by reading this policy if that would be the case on campus.

Employee 5 Questions/Comments:

Perhaps the simplest solution is to just add a very brief sentence to the opening paragraph.

In an effort to provide a safe and healthy environment for employees, students and visitors, this procedure establishes requirements for accessibility, behavior and treatment of animals in college facilities and in college vehicles. Access may be denied for certain areas in college facilities. **This policy is not intended to govern the use of animals for educational purposes for academic courses or college events.**

(I found such a line at another college's policy about pets)

XXX and I chatted on the way home, which led to the thoughts below. There should be a distinction between 'decorative' animals and 'educational' animals.

1). Small, non-hazardous animals may be kept in a secure container (eg an aquarium or terrarium), subject to approval by [their supervisor/their dean]. The individual in charge of the animal(s) assumes responsibility to keep the area clean and safe.

2). Animals may be used for educational purposes in Life Science courses or during other science events, subject to approval by [the Chair of the Science Department/Dean of Academics]. All reasonable precautions must be taken to ensure that the animals are secure and healthy to minimize risks to students, employees, and campus visitors.

Do we need to list some "reasonable precautions"? Such as ...

Rabies tags, muzzles, leashes, shots, cages.

Employee 6 Questions/Comments:

I would suggest a simple addition to the first paragraph of the proposed animal policy.

*In an effort to provide a safe and healthy environment for employees, students and visitors, this procedure establishes requirements for accessibility, behavior and treatment of animals in college facilities and in college vehicles. Access may be denied for certain areas in college facilities. **This policy is not intended to govern the use of animals for educational purposes within the scope of academic courses or college events.***

This would allow Life Sciences (as well as Agriculture) courses to have animals on campus. I understand Early Childhood also has animals on campus occasionally, so perhaps a phrase could be added to exempt them as well.

Employee 7 Questions/Comments:

In response to the proposed Animal in College Facilities Policy (2220), I request an exemption for the stage and backstage area of the Fine Arts Auditorium. Often plays and musicals require animals as part of their cast; i.e. Annie, Legally Blonde, A Christmas Story. Animals are also part of special programs brought in the Fine Arts Auditorium, i.e. Jack Hannah and future Zoo programs. The stage is an area where animals should continue to be allowed if they are kept on a leash, crated, or under a handlers' care.

In addition, I feel animals in the workplace offer some incredible benefits. I have attached a few articles where studies have shown this to be true.

<http://www.inc.com/john-mcdermott/study-office-dogs-reduce-work-related-stress.html>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/06/20/dogs-to-work-stress_n_3475977.html

I propose the college establish reasonable regulations for animals in offices and on campus as opposed to a campus-wide ban. Animals could be crated or kept in offices, and only brought in and out of building on leash or by carrier. Responsible pet ownership should be rewarded and today many companies, hospitals, and institutions encourage responsible owners to bring their pets to work.

Companies are realizing the benefits of pets in the workplace.

<http://www.mnn.com/family/pets/photos/10-companies-that-let-you-bring-your-dog-to-work/humane-society>

Each day, more and more retail stores allow shoppers to bring their pets with them to shop.

1. [Lowe's](#)
2. [Home Depot](#)
3. [Pottery Barn](#)
4. [Macy's](#)
5. [Bass Pro Shops](#)
6. [Barnes and Noble](#)
7. [LUSH Cosmetics](#)
8. [Restoration Hardware](#)
9. [Gap](#)
10. [Bloomingdale's](#)
11. [Urban Outfitters](#)
12. [Anthropologie](#)
13. [Free People](#)
14. [Foot Locker](#)
15. [Bebe](#)
16. [Nordstrom](#)
17. [Old Navy](#)
18. [Saks Fifth Avenue](#)
19. [Tractor Supply Co.](#)
20. Orschleins
21. Petco
22. Pet Smart

Concerns regarding dog bites and insurance are somewhat unsubstantiated. Insurance companies allow the individual to purchase a separate insurance policy for their pets in the workplace, and others ask employees to sign a waiver stating they will be responsible for any damage or injury caused by their pet. To put the risks in perspective; recent statistics show **42** dog bite-related fatalities occurred in the United States (Center for Disease Control) versus **32,000** gun deaths and **35,543** motor vehicle deaths (New York Times 2014).

I respectfully request the college to propose an exemption for animals on stage and backstage areas of the Fine Arts Auditorium. In addition to this exemption for the stage, I request Barton Community College create Animal Regulations for Campus and allow a trial-period for employees to bring pets to work. Pets should be healthy, current on all vaccinations, and clean and well groomed.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Employee 8 Questions/Comments:

Dear President Heilman and Board of Trustees,

I would like to ask you to consider NOT making a policy of denying some four-legged friends to come on campus every so often. So much research has been done to show the value of having pets, even in a campus environment. Just petting a dog can lower blood pressure, slow heart rate, and calm stress. Dogs are used as friendly visitors in grade schools, nursing homes, prisons, therapy sessions, they work with autistic children, rehab situations, hospitals, libraries even motels, businesses such as Lowes and Macys and other large stores. A quick internet search found dozens of college campuses that allowed dogs in the environment.

I think it is rare that a dog visits the classroom with a faculty owner, but when one does, it has the capacity to change the environment of the moment. They are not distractions, but additions to a calm learning and enjoyable hour or so in the classroom. On the infrequent occasion when a dog does come to school, most will simply curl up and wait in the office until their master comes back, or perhaps accompany him or her to the classroom and sleep quietly by the desk. I used to have a beautiful Golden Retriever that wore a BCCC t-shirt and attended basketball games. Everyone loved her!

I remember, in the past, more than one administrator brought their little dogs to work almost every day. They were never a problem to anyone.

I realize that there must be some regulations, such as paperwork for shots, etc. and that is a good and fair thing to do. It is also such an easy thing to simply ask the class if anyone is allergic to dogs, and they can easily speak up. These are not children we are dealing with, but adults, and as such, will have to deal with "speaking up" if they are allergic to dogs, cats, etc. for much of their life. It is not unrealistic to ask anyone for that information and if, in fact, that would be the case for someone, then, most certainly the dog would not be welcome in the classroom. I would expect the same honesty from a faculty member or other employee if a dog was brought into their presence.

If the concern is insurance, there must certainly be coverage for any possibility of injury, otherwise all the other schools, businesses, public libraries, etc. would not allow such liability. I am not talking about dogs roaming the halls, but a quiet, well-behaved dog on a leash is a welcome friend anywhere. And I hope that you would consider allowing these pets to be part of the Barton family, and occasionally visit campus as well.

Respectfully,

Kay Robinson [name included at request of employee]

Employee 9 Questions/Comments:

I take my dog to the nursing home, where he brings joy to the residents. The only requirement is current vaccinations. If my dog were to have an accident, I would have to clean the mess. I don't think any person on this campus would bring a pet that would potentially injure someone. I think there needs to be a degree of trust rather than an unending set of rigid rules.

I have my students fill out a card at the beginning of the semester and one question is allergies. I have brought my dog to class, especially when a student indicates they are homesick and miss their pets. I ask if anyone has an objection. I have also brought him during an exam, which had an amazing calming effect. He greeted people, then laid at one person's desk where she scratched his ears periodically.

If this ban becomes a policy, there needs to be exceptions for the theater, service and therapy dogs.

XXXXX