

# TEXAS LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

## ANIMALS ON CAMPUS POLICY



### PET

Any domestic or tamed animal for companionship or pleasure.



### EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL

An animal that a medical professional has determined provides benefit for a person with a disability.



### SERVICE ANIMAL

A dog that is trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.

### OUTDOOR AREAS (must be leashed)

**YES**

**YES**

**YES**

### CAMPUS HOUSING

**NO**

**YES**  
(Contact Disability Services)

**YES**  
Per the ADA

### ALL FACILITIES (includes offices, athletic fields, and classrooms)

**NO**

**NO**

**YES**  
Per the ADA

## **TLU Animals on Campus Policy – Adopted September 11, 2018**

### **PURPOSE**

Pets are the source of much enjoyment and companionship to members of the TLU community. However, pets may also pose a concern or threat to the health and safety of the campus community and/or disrupt campus operations.

To explore the proper balance of allowing pets on campus while recognizing the need to ensure that all faculty, staff, students, and visitors could safely utilize our campus facilities, the University reviewed issues and complaints from students, faculty, staff, and visitors as to the presence of pets in multiple University facilities. In developing a policy on pets, the University sought to harmonize, when possible, the foregoing concerns and also sought to avoid any situation where an individual would feel uncomfortable or unable to ask another member of the University community to refrain from bringing a pet into a University facility.

### **DEFINITIONS**

**Pets** shall mean a domestic or tamed animal kept for companionship or pleasure.

**University Facility** shall mean any building owned, operated, leased, or maintained by Texas Lutheran University, including outdoor athletic facilities.

**Service Animal**, as defined by Title II and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Tasks performed can include, among other things, pulling a wheelchair, retrieving dropped items, alerting a person to a sound, reminding a person to take medication, or pressing an elevator button.

**Emotional Support Animal**, as defined by the TLU Student Handbook Animal Policy, is an animal prescribed by a physician or mental health professional to an individual with a disability or condition to provide comfort and relief to the owner and is a part of a person's treatment plan. An emotional support animal is not a pet, nor a service animal.

## **POLICY**

Pets are not permitted in, or within, any University Facility. Pets are also not permitted at the swimming pool or at any athletic event.

Pets are permitted throughout the outside areas of the TLU campus provided they are leashed and under the direct control of their owners. Owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets while on the campus and must appropriately dispose of any waste. Owners will also be responsible for any damage caused by their pets while on campus.

## **VIOLATIONS OF THIS POLICY**

Permission to have pets on campus is a privilege, not a right. The failure to follow this policy will result in revocation of the privilege and could subject the individual to further disciplinary measures by the University.

## **NON-APPLICABILITY OF THIS POLICY**

**This policy shall not apply to service animals.**

This policy shall not apply to any University sanctioned event scheduled and announced to include pets, but only for the scheduled time and location. This policy shall not apply to a campus mascot authorized by the University. Questions regarding University sanctioned events or campus mascot activities may be directed to the President's Office.

This policy shall not apply to emotional support animals, pursuant to the Fair Housing Act. For purposes of the Fair Housing Act, only the University's residential facilities will be considering housing facilities. As required by the Fair Housing Act, assistance animals, including emotional support animals, will only be allowed in the University's residential facilities. The TLU Student Handbook provides an Emotional Support Animal policy which must be followed in this instance.

Please contact the Office of Disability Services for further information as to service animals or emotional support animals.

This policy shall not apply to animals used for research that has been approved through the appropriate University policies and procedures.

Lastly, this policy shall also not apply to private residences owned by the University or Area Coordinator apartments in a University housing facility.