SRSU Policy: Animals on Campus Policy
SRSU Policy ID: APM 2.29
Policy Reviewed by: University Police Department & ADA Policy & Education Committee
Approval Authority: Executive Cabinet
Approval Date: January 2021
Next Review Date: January 2026

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide for the health and safety of Sul Ross State University students, faculty, staff, and visitors and for the protection of University-controlled property by establishing guidelines for the presence of animals on campus. Animals on campus can pose sanitary and health-related problems to the campus community and could trigger allergies, transmit diseases, cause fear, excessive noise, animal bites, and property damage.

II. Scope

This policy applies to all University-controlled property.

III. Definitions

a. University-controlled property- Property that is owned, leased, operated, and/or maintained by Sul Ross State University.
b. Service Animal- Service animals are defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act as an animal that does work or performs tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. Falsey claiming a pet as a “service animal” is considered a misdemeanor and is subject to a $300 fine and community service in the state of Texas.
c. Research and Teaching Animals- Approved animals used directly in support of Sul Ross State University’s mission of teaching, research, and or clinical programs.
d. Assistance Animal- Approved animal used by on-campus residents as defined by HUD Fair Housing Act to provide assistance in certain circumstances to a person with a documented disability as a reasonable accommodation via the appropriate medical documentation.

IV. Permitted Animals on University-Controlled Property

a. Registration: To register a service animal as an employee, contact the Department of Human Resource Office in Alpine (BAB 101) or Sul Ross Business Services Director in Del Rio (Administration Bldg. K Room 411). As a student contact the Counseling & Accessibility Office in Alpine (FH 112) or Sul Ross Student Services Administrative Specialist in Uvalde (C102).
b. Service Animals:
   i. Falsey claiming a pet as a “service animal” is considered a misdemeanor and is subject to a $300 fine and community service in the state of Texas.
ii. Any animal being used as a service animal inside any University-controlled building should wear a harness or other identifying device to identify it as a service animal.

iii. The University reserves the right to request the individual to present documentation from the individual’s veterinarian that the service animal is in good health and has current and up-to-date immunization records and is in compliance with all applicable state and local health laws. The individual may be asked to present updated documentation annually.

c. Responsibility, Removal & Behavior of Permitted Animal:
   i. Animals must not disrupt others (i.e. noise, odor, squawking, excessive barking, etc.).
   
   ii. Animal owners are responsible for cleaning up messes made by their animal and must display evidence of the proper equipment for such cleaning. Anyone who brings an animal on University-controlled property assumes all financial responsibility for any damages to property or injury to individuals caused by the animal.
   
   iii. Animals may not be tethered to University buildings, motor vehicles, trees, railings, light poles, benches, posts, or other structures.
   
   iv. Animals may be removed from University property for violation of this policy at the discretion of the University Department of Public Safety. The University Department of Public Safety and Dean of Students’ Office has the final say in the removal of animals on campus.

d. Campus Grounds: Anyone having an animal on campus is responsible for the animals’ actions including attacks and property damage. The University reserves the right remove any animal who poses a threat to the health or safety of others.

e. Buildings & Residential Halls: Animals are not permitted inside any University-controlled building or stadium, except for service animals that are specifically exempted by this policy. Students residing in residence halls are not permitted to have animals, with exception of fish in the maximum of a 10-gallon aquarium, inside the residence hall or as permitted in the Residential Living Assistance Animal Policy APM 2.30. Only full time benefit employees that are required to maintain residence on campus and are on call at all times may have domesticated pets. Although these animals are permitted within the resident’s unit, the animal must remain under the control of the owner at all times. The care or supervision of an exempted animal is solely the responsibility of the owner. Sul Ross State University reserves the right to exclude an exempted animal whose behavior poses a threat to the health or safety of others.

f. Special Events: Animals are not allowed (leashed or unleashed) at any special events or University functions with the exception of any specific event that has been approved for animals in advance by the University Department of Public Safety and the Dean of Students.

V. Prohibited Animals on University-Controlled Property
   a. Undomesticated and/or dangerous animals in the wild: Bringing potentially dangerous or aggressive animals is prohibited from all University-controlled property (inside and outside) at all times, except research and teaching animals.
b. **Aggressive Animals:** Animals with a history of aggressiveness or an observed display of aggressive behavior are prohibited from all University-controlled property. Any University Department of Public Safety officer has the authority to make a determination as to whether or not such an animal on campus falls under this category.

c. **Stray animals:** It is the desire of the University for stray animals to be treated humanely. Due to the potential danger of rabies, and in compliance with municipal and state laws regarding licensing and the care and control of animals, feeding of stray animals is not permitted. This allows for greater control of the animal population and will better provide for the health and safety of the Sul Ross State University community. Stray animals should be reported to the University Department of Public Safety at 432-837-8100 for removal of the animal with the assistance of the City of Alpine Animal Control.

VI. **Failure to Comply**

a. **Prohibited Animals:** Prohibited animals on the University-controlled property must be removed immediately. If a prohibited animal is observed on the University-controlled property, the owner and/or person bringing the animal may face disciplinary measures by appropriate authorities or departments which include University Department of Public Safety, Department of Human Resources, and Dean of Students Office.

b. **Unattended or Unrestrained Animals:** If an unattended/unrestrained animal is observed, a reasonable attempt will be made to locate the animal’s owner. If the owner is located, he/she may face disciplinary measures by the appropriate office which includes University Department of Public Safety, Department of Human Resource, and Dean of Students Office. If attempts to find the animal’s owner is unsuccessful, the City of Alpine Animal Control will be contacted for removal of the animal from University-controlled property.

c. **Property Damage or Personal Injury:** The University will seek restitution for any animal-related damage to University-controlled property, facilities, or grounds, or injury to any person. The repair or replacement cost of damaged property or expenses in connection with a personal injury is the sole responsibility of the owner of the animal that caused the damage. Additionally, owners must remove and dispose of animal waste in a sanitary manner.

VII. **Grievances**

For any grievances, as a student, that you may have please visit [Student Grievance Procedure](#). For grievances as a staff member visit [Grievance Procedure for Staff Employees](#).

VIII. **Reporting**

To report a violation of this policy or for concerns of an animal on University-controlled property (such as an unattended animal, an injury or property damage in connection with an animal on University-controlled property) please contact the University Department of Public Safety at 432-837-8011. For question or concerns about service animals as an employee contact the Department of Human
Resource Office in Alpine (BAB 101) or Sul Ross Business Services Director in Del Rio (Administration Bldg. K Room 411). For questions or concerns about service animals or assistance animals as a student contact the Counseling & Accessibility Office in Alpine (FH 112) or Sul Ross Student Services Administrative Specialist in Uvalde (C102).