



<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Physical Plant		
<b>POLICY:</b>	606.1 Animals on Campus		
<b>PROCEDURE:</b>			
<b>EFFECTIVE:</b>	September 2013	<b>REVISED:</b>	<b>REVIEWED:</b> June 2025

## Introduction and Purpose

Great Falls College welcomes animals on campus consistent with the limitation outlined in this policy. However, the college may exclude an animal from campus if it causes disruption, threatens the health or safety of others or otherwise fails to meet the criteria set forth in this policy.

## Policy

### Service Animals

Service animals are permitted to accompany people with disabilities in all areas of college facilities where students, members of the public, and other participants in services, programs, or activities are allowed to go.

A service animal must be trained so that it controls its waste elimination, absent illness or accident. The handler must maintain control of the service animal at all times by a harness, leash, or other tether, or by voice, signals or other effective means if the handler is unable to hold control devices, or such use would interfere with the service animal's performance of work or tasks.

Great Falls College does not require documentation, such as proof that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal. College employees may only ask two questions of the handler to determine whether the animal qualifies as a service animal:

- Is the animal required because of a disability?
- What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

### Emotional Support Animals (ESA)

An emotional support animal is prescribed by a mental health provider and selected to play an integral part of a person's treatment process that demonstrates a good temperament and reliable, predictable behavior. While Great Falls College MSU recognizes the value of an emotional support animal, they are not permitted in campus buildings.

### Pets

Pets are welcome to use public outdoor spaces on campus. Handlers are expected to clean up after their animals. Pets visiting campus must be kept on a leash, tether, or harness that does not exceed six feet in length at all times and may not be left unattended or tied to any objects. All damages caused by an animal are the responsibility of the handler.

To maintain safety and avoid disruption, pets are not allowed inside buildings or other indoor spaces owned or controlled by the college.

## Exclusions

This policy does not apply to animals used for academic or educational purposes in the classroom.

This policy does not apply to animals owned and used by law enforcement agencies in the exercise of the agency's official duties.

The college may impose additional restrictions on the presence of animals in certain locations or at particular events. The college may invite animals to campus for specific events.

Exceptions to this policy must be submitted to the Executive Director of Operations for approval.

## **Definitions**

Handler: The owner and person in charge of an animal.

Pet: Any animal kept for ordinary use and companionship. Service Animals and Support Animals are not considered Pets.

Service Animal: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a service animal "as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA."

Service Animal in Training: An animal who is participating in a formal program to learn how to become a service animal. Service animals in training are allowed on campus to the same extent and subject to the same limitations as service animals.

Emotional Support Animal (ESA): An ESA is an animal that is prescribed to a student with a disability by a healthcare or mental health professional and is necessary to afford the student with an equal opportunity to attend class or utilize campus resources.