

## **SUNY COBLESKILL POLICY ON PRIVATELY OWNED ANIMALS ON CAMPUS**

The animal owner is responsible for knowing, understanding and abiding by this policy. The College is responsible for dissemination and enforcement of this policy.

All privately owned animals present on campus are covered by this policy. This policy does not pertain to animals owned by the College, including on-duty police dogs. The status of each privately owned animal (Service, ESA/Therapy, Pet, Horse/Cow/Other Livestock) will determine where the animal is permitted on campus and the regulations which govern their presence.

### **Identification of Animals**

Owners of animals in the Canine Studies Program, Service Animals and Emotional Support Animals are requested to have their animals wear identification, as described on the attached chart\*. Vests will be provided free of charge by the individual/office specified in the attached chart.

### **Service Animals**

**Service animals are defined 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.

When it is not obvious what service an animal provides, only limited inquiries are allowed. Staff may ask two questions: (1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability, and (2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform. Staff cannot ask about the person's disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card or training documentation for the dog, or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.

Under the ADA, colleges and universities must allow people with disabilities to bring their service animals into all areas of the facility that are open to the public or to students.

A person with a disability cannot be asked to remove his service animal from the premises unless: (1) the dog is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it or (2) the dog is not housebroken. When there is a legitimate reason to ask that a service animal be removed, staff must offer the person with the disability the opportunity to obtain goods or services without the animal's presence.

Students who will be bringing a service animal to campus are asked to notify the Assistant Director of Educational Support Services.

### **Miniature Horses**

In addition to the provisions about service dogs, ADA regulations contain a separate provision about miniature horses that have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with

disabilities. (Miniature horses generally range in height from 24 inches to 34 inches measured to the shoulders and generally weigh between 70 and 100 pounds.) The regulations set out the following assessment factors to assist entities in determining whether miniature horses can be accommodated in their facility: (1) whether the miniature horse is housebroken; (2) whether the miniature horse is under the owner's control; (3) whether the facility can accommodate the miniature horse's type, size, and weight; and (4) whether the miniature horse's presence will not compromise legitimate safety requirements necessary for safe operation of the facility.

### **Dogs in the Canine Studies Program**

Dogs in the Canine Studies Program are allowed in all outdoor areas and in facilities specifically designated for the program. Program dogs may also be allowed in predetermined areas throughout the campus with permission from the Director of Facilities Management or VP for Operations and with the Instructor present. Signage at building entrances will notify those entering the building that K-9 training is in progress. Canine Studies program dogs are tested for health and temperament by program staff. When program dogs are not actively participating in the program and are on campus, they must be housed in campus kennels or be crated in faculty and staff offices, or, when approved as emotional support animals, in student bedrooms. **Faculty and staff members with dogs participating in the Canine Studies Program must obtain permission to crate a dog in their office from their supervisors and their respective cabinet member each semester.**

### **Emotional Support and Therapy Animals**

Animals whose sole function is to provide comfort /emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA. ESAs/Therapy Animals are not permitted in campus buildings, except as noted below.

**Residence Halls:** Emotional Support Animals (ESAs) may be present in the approved owner's residence hall bedroom and specific outdoor areas as authorized by the Residential Life Office. Animals living in residence halls must have an annual clean bill of health from a licensed veterinarian. An application and additional information is available at <https://www.cobleskill.edu/campus-life/residential-life/Support%20Animal%20Application%20Part%20A.pdf>.

### **Wellness Center:**

The SUNY Cobleskill Canine/Therapy Dog Program also provides regular therapy dog visits at the Wellness Center, following the policies and procedures described below.

1. Therapy Dog Teams (dogs and student/faculty/staff member) will be certified through Therapy Dog International (or equivalent certifying agency) and will carry insurance through the certifying agency.
2. Therapy dog visits will occur in the Wellness Center front conference room, which is adjacent to the main lobby.
3. These therapy dog visits will be in addition to the existing program conducted during finals prep week in collaboration with CASE.

**Horses, Cows and other Livestock**

Privately owned horses, cows and other livestock may be in specific areas when approved by the Farm Coordinator. Animal owners must follow instructions provided by the Farm Coordinator or other designated farm faculty/staff.

**Pets and Other Visiting Animals**

1. In consideration of personal safety and sanitation, all pets (privately owned animals not described elsewhere in this policy) are strictly prohibited from the College’s building interior spaces including, but not limited to: food venues, classrooms, office buildings and offices, corridors, laboratories, barns and other instructional spaces, residence halls, etc.
2. Pets are permitted during a temporary visit in designated areas of the campus grounds provided:
  - They are leashed and under the physical control of their owners at all times.
  - They remain outdoors at all times.
  - Owners collect and dispose of animal waste promptly.
3. Pets are not permitted on intercollegiate athletic fields.

**SUNY COBLESKILL PRIVATELY OWNED ANIMALS ON CAMPUS Terminology  
For Internal Use Only**

<b>TERMINOLOGY</b>	<b>TYPE OF ANIMAL</b>	<b>IDENTIFICATION REQUESTED/REQUIRED</b>	<b>RESOURCES FOR VESTS, INFORMATION AND CONCERNS</b>	<b>AREAS ALLOWED ON CAMPUS</b>
Service Animals	Dog or Miniature Horse	Vest or other identification saying “service dog” requested**	Wendi Richards, Assistant Director, Educational Support Services (518.255.5870)	All facilities, including dining facilities
Emotional Support Animals (ESA) and Therapy Animals	Any	Vest/Collar/Leash saying “ESA” requested**	Animal Owner/Residence Hall Director/AVP Student Affairs Edward Asselin (518.255.5215)	Owner bedroom, designated outdoor areas
Canine Studies Program Animals	Dog	Vest saying “Cobleskill K-9” required	Animal Owner/Canine Studies Faculty (McCraith – 518-.255.5441 or Mackenzie – 518.255.5671) Department Chair (Lynn Dunn – 518.255.5670) HR (518.255.5432)	Canine Training Facility, Kennels, crated in offices*
Pet	Any	As required by local ordinance	UPD (518.255.5317) HR (518.255.5423)	Designated outdoor areas only

\* It is unlawful in NYS to knowingly apply a false or improper identification tag designating a service, emotional support, or therapy dog.

\*\*The campus may not require that service or ES animals wear identification, but animal owners' cooperation is requested.

**Support and Enforcement**

Emergencies and other immediate assistance	University Police	518.255.5317
Damage to facilities or grounds	Facilities Management	518.255.5228
Service Animals	Accessibility Resources	518.255.5282
Animal bites and attacks	University Police	518.255.5317
	Environmental Health and Safety	518.255.5411
Animal nuisance complaints	University Police	518.255.5317
	Human Resources	518.255.5423
Residence Hall policies and requirements	Residential Life	518.255.5215
Animal Control	Town of Cobleskill Dog Control Officer	518.234.4212
	George Liddle	518.231.4224
Support for students and staff who are fearful of dogs or other animals	Students – Wellness Center	518.255.5525
	Faculty/Staff – EAP Coordinator	518.255.5369
Questions	Vice President for Operations	518.255.5402

2/8/18