



Animals On Campus

Objectives

- 1) Clarify the expectations relating to animals on campus.
- 2) Implement a consistent approach to approval of requests for animals on campus.
- 3) Outline the expectations of animal owners/animals when requests are approved.
- 4) Develop processes to address concerns in a fair and consistent manner.
- 5) Educate the campus community on the expectations relating to animals on campus.

Definitions

B.A.R.K. – The Building Academic Retention through K9's (B.A.R.K.) program provides for research of Animal-Assisted Therapy on the social and emotional well-being of first-year university students and aims to bring together university students and trained therapy dogs and handlers in an effort to reduce stress, combat homesickness, foster interpersonal connections, and promote the overall social-emotional well-being of students.

B.A.R.K. Therapy Dogs (B.A.R.K. Dog) - a companion (pet) dog that has received training and has undergone assessments to determine that the animal meets standards set by B.A.R.K. Typically handled by their owners, these dogs are certified to have stable temperaments and friendly, calm, and easy-going personalities. Their role is to provide psychological or physiological support to individuals other than their handlers.

Certified – an individual or dog that has applied and received certification under the BC Guide Dog and Service Dog Act by BC Security Programs Division (or equivalent).

Control – an animal on a leash (2m or less) and under direct supervision of their handler.

Dog Trainer – an individual who is certified to train dogs for the purpose of the dogs becoming Guide/Service dogs.

Dog-in-Training – a dog trained by a certified Dog Trainer to become a Guide/Service Dog.

Dog-in-Training Team – a Dog Trainer and a Dog-in-Training that are working together to train the Dog-in-Training to become a Guide/Service Dog.

Emotional Support Animal (ESA) – a companion animal (pet) that a qualified medical professional prescribes as it provides therapeutic effect for a person who has been diagnosed with a mental health condition or an emotional disorder.

Guide/Service Dog – a dog that is trained to provide a service to a blind person/person with a disability and is Certified.



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Guide/Service Dog Team – a blind person/person with a disability and a Guide/Service Dog that are Certified.

Overview

Animals are prohibited from campus unless they fit the criteria listed under one or more of the categories outlined below. Pets are prohibited from being on campus. In all cases where animals are permitted on campus, the owner is responsible to ensure that the presence of the animal does not inappropriately disrupt the normal business operations of the campus nor create undue safety concerns for the animal, the handler or other members of the campus community.

Considerations

This program endeavors to create a respectful, fair and transparent application and approval processes with clear expectations regarding animals on campus while understanding the intricacies of the subject. Specifically:

- Equity
- Fear of Animals
- Health Considerations
- Incompatibilities with other animals
- Cultural Differences
- Safety Considerations
- Hygiene Considerations
- Productivity Considerations

All animals that are permitted to be on campus (as outlined in the criteria below) must be clean, housebroken and of good health. While on campus these animals must remain effectively under the control of the owner/handler at all times.

All animals (both certified and non-certified) are prohibited from areas of campus in which food is prepared, processed, or stored.

Guide/Service Dog Teams

Guide/Service Dog Teams are permitted on campus.

Guide/Service Dog Teams are those who have attained licensing through the BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (or equivalent in other jurisdictions) after successfully completing the certification process.

Guide/Service Dog Teams are required to carry their license at all times.

Most certified Guide/Service Dogs will wear a vest, however there are no strict requirements in this respect across jurisdictions.



It is recommended that certified Guide/Service Dog Teams register with campus security.

NOTES: *Certified Guide/Service Dog Teams have the same rights as people not accompanied by dogs with the only exception being food preparation, processing and storage areas.*

Dog-in-Training Teams

Employees - Employees are not permitted to perform guide dog training simultaneously while performing work for UBC at UBC O.

Students and Visitors - Dog-in-Training Teams are permitted to access campus per their license without prior approval. It is recommended that these Dog-in-Training Teams register with campus security.

Residence Applications - Where Dog-in-Training Teams wish to apply for on-campus housing additional documentation must be submitted to SHHS prior to approval being granted. Upon approval these Dog-in-Training Teams must register with campus security.

NOTES: *Certified Dog-in-Training Teams have the same rights as people not accompanied by dogs with exception that Dog-in-Training Teams are not permitted into food preparation, processing, storage and service areas and that tenancy may be denied to these teams based upon rental terms prohibiting or restricting pets.*

Emotional Support Animal (ESA)

There are distinct applications processes for approval of ESAs for the following three scenarios:

Category	Review and Accommodation Plan	Local Area Review/ Implementation	Handler Agreement	Consultation
UBC Staff and Faculty	Human Resources	Director or Dean	Manager	Manager Area Occupants
UBC Students	DRC	Dean/AHU	DRC	Faculty
UBC Students in Housing	DRC	SHHS	SHHS	

The initial application must be submitted to HR (Staff and Faculty) or the DRC (UBC students and UBC students in residence). Upon initial review and development of an accommodation plan, a handler agreement will be developed as indicated in the table



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above. The accommodation plan and handler agreement will be submitted to the responsible Director, Dean or SHHS, as appropriate for final review and approval.

In general, the following applies to ESAs:

- Annual approvals must be granted prior to ESAs attendance on campus.
- ESAs may not be taken into shared spaces such as classrooms, meeting rooms and restrooms, unless specifically addressed in the accommodation plan and handler agreement.
- ESAs are not permitted into laboratories or other areas where hazardous materials or machinery are used.
- ESAs are not permitted into food preparation, processing, storage and service areas.
- Owners of ESAs must sign a waiver and indemnification agreement relieving UBC of any liability associated injury to the animal or damages caused by the ESA to a 3rd party.
- Upon approval, handlers must register their ESA with Campus Security

ESAs are not permitted if they have been identified as an aggressive dog, dangerous dog or a nuisance dog by an animal control officer.

B.A.R.K. Dogs

B.A.R.K. is an important program at UBCO that provides for research of Animal-Assisted Therapy on the social and emotional well-being of first-year university students and aims to bring together university students and trained therapy dogs and handlers in an effort to reduce stress, combat homesickness, foster interpersonal connections, and promote the overall social-emotional well-being of students.

Employees may request approval for their B.A.R.K. dog to attend campus on dates when there are B.A.R.K. events in which they will be participating. In order for B.A.R.K. dogs to attend campus, owners are required to be approved into the B.A.R.K. program. Without a subsequent local area approval, B.A.R.K. dogs are only permitted to be on campus for the time required to attend B.A.R.K. events and only to locations of campus where B.A.R.K. events are occurring. In the event that this creates logistical difficulties, it should be noted that there are local care facilities to support B.A.R.K. participants (i.e. B.A.R.K. and Fly).

In order for B.A.R.K. dogs to be brought into the office environment prior to, or following a B.A.R.K. event, an application must be submitted to the responsible Director or Dean for final review and approval.



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- B.A.R.K. program approval must be granted prior to B.A.R.K. dogs attending campus.
- B.A.R.K. dogs may not be taken into shared spaces such as classrooms, meeting rooms and restrooms.
- B.A.R.K. dogs are not permitted into laboratories or other areas where hazardous materials or machinery are used.
- B.A.R.K. dogs are not permitted into food preparation, processing, storage and service areas.
- Local approval must be granted prior to B.A.R.K. dogs attending office environments on campus, prior to, or following a B.A.R.K. event.
- Owners of B.A.R.K. dogs must sign a waiver and indemnification agreement relieving UBC of any liability associated injury to the BARK dog or damages caused by the dog.
- Upon approval, handlers must register their B.A.R.K. dog with Campus Security

Note that B.A.R.K. dogs who have obtained local approval to be on campus may only attend campus on dates when there are B.A.R.K. events.

Reference Documents and Related Regulation

Guide Dog and Service Dog Act ([link](#))

Regional District of Central Okanagan Dog Ownership Bylaw #1343 ([link](#))