

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

Facilities Management

Policies and Procedures

Animal Policy

I. PURPOSE

This section outlines policy and procedures designed to control the nuisance, fear of animals, and potential health hazards created by pets, livestock, and wild animals on campus. Laboratory animals used in research and teaching are not covered by this policy. This policy applies to all UC Merced facilities/property. This policy additionally applies to all campus visitors and their pets.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Assistance dog — a dog that has been or is being trained as a guide dog, hearing dog, or service dog.
- B. Guide dog — a dog that has been or is specially trained to aid a visually impaired person.
- C. Hearing dog — a dog that has been or is being specially trained to aid a hearing impaired person.
- D. Service dog — a dog that has been or is being specially trained to aid a physically disabled person with a physical disability other than sight or hearing.
- E. Police Dog — any dog that has been or is being specially trained to support law enforcement operations and is under the control of a qualified law enforcement handler.

III. POLICY

A. Pets

1. All types of pets, except for police, guide, hearing, and service dogs used by disabled persons as defined by California Civil Code Section 54.1, are not permitted in campus buildings. Dogs must be on a leash not more than 6 feet long and under positive control in all outside areas, especially outdoor sporting events. Personal comfort dogs are not classified as service or assistance dogs. Dogs described in II. A-D above in training may enter campus buildings with the respective occupant department's/Dean's approval.
2. Any pet causing a nuisance will be subject to impoundment and the owner may be cited under Merced County Code.
3. Pets are not allowed in posted livestock and field research areas.
4. Pets are not permitted on bikeways.
5. Pets are not permitted in university vehicles, except for impounded animals or university owned laboratory animals being transported in approved vehicles.
6. A valid county dog license must be worn at all times by any dog on campus.

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7. Fecal matter deposited by pets on campus must be removed immediately by the owner.
8. special circumstances/exceptions to this policy must be approved in advance by the Assistant Vice Chancellor, Facilities Management.

B. Animals in campus housing

Animals, with the exception of police, guide, hearing, and service dogs, are not allowed inside campus housing units except as indicated in Housing policies.

C. Unattended or loose animals

1. Unattended animals found tied outside a building or on campus grounds without proper shelter or water, or causing a nuisance (barking or aggressive behavior), will be removed by Merced County Animal Services.
2. Loose or wild animals, including feral cats, causing a nuisance or threat to humans or laboratory animals will be caught and removed by Merced County Animal Services.
3. Any incident of an animal, exotic or domestic, in any unattended motor vehicle without proper food, water, or ventilation, or subjected to extreme temperatures that could affect its health or safety, will be reported to Merced County Animal Services.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Reporting animal control issues

1. Contact the **Facilities Management Help Desk at 228-2986** to report animal control issues.
2. During evenings, weekends, and holidays, contact the UC Merced Police Dispatcher (228-2677) for animal control issues.

B. Livestock

Sighting of loose livestock should be reported to the UC Merced Police Department and Facilities Management.

C. Wild animals

Sighting of injured or potentially dangerous wild animals such as mountain lions, coyotes, or bobcats on campus should be reported to the UC Merced Police Department.

D. Animal bites

Animal bites will be handled as required by county rabies control laws and regulations. They must be reported to university health and police officials who will notify the County Board of Health and Animal Control.

VII. FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact **Facilities Management (228-2986)** for further information concerning campus animal and pet regulations.

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VIII. REFERENCES

- A. California Agricultural Code, Section 31102.
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Sections 2602-2606.8.
- C. California Health and Safety Code, Part 6, Chapter 1, Rabies Control, Sections 121575-121710.
- D. Merced County Code, Title 7, Animals, Chapter 7.04, Dogs, Cats and Other Domesticated Animals.
- E. University of California Merced Student Housing Policies and Due Process Procedures.