



# Non-Research Animals on Campus

<b>Policy Number</b>	3-400.3
<b>Responsible Authority</b>	Associate Vice President for Safety and Security and Chief of Police
<b>Initiating Authority</b>	Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
<b>Effective Date</b>	6/3/2021
<b>Date of Origin</b>	12/4/2007

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## APPLICABILITY/ACCOUNTABILITY

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This policy applies to any university employee, volunteer, student, DSO employee, or member of the public who wishes to bring an animal(s) not related to instructional activity or research on to any UCF campus or into any facility controlled by the university.

The procedures listed below exclude the following categories of animals:

- law enforcement K-9 and equestrian units
- animals used as an accommodation under law, including Service Animals, Trainee Animals, and Emotional Support Animals (see UCF's Office of Nondiscrimination & Accommodations Compliance *Service and Emotional Support Animals Policy*);
- animals used for teaching or research (see the Office of Research, Office of Animal Welfare Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Requirements Regarding the Necessity for Protocol Submission and Approval in Teaching and Research); and
- registered therapy animals used by the UCF Counseling and Psychological Services for therapeutic treatment.

To obtain an exemption to have a therapy animal (including therapy trainee animals) on university property, individuals must request approval from the Office of Enterprise Risk and Insurance by emailing [riskmanagement@ucf.edu](mailto:riskmanagement@ucf.edu).

All other exemptions or special circumstances will be evaluated on a case by case basis, including exemptions for special events such as concerts, athletic events, and guest speakers. A request for an exemption must be made through the Office of the Associate Vice President of Campus Safety and Chief of Police (AVP) via email to [policedept@ucf.edu](mailto:policedept@ucf.edu). The AVP or designee will have the sole authority to approve a request for exemption and such approval or denial will be communicated to the requesting party by email.

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## POLICY STATEMENT

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To ensure a safe and healthy environment for the university community, it is the policy of the university to maintain animal control. As such, an animal must be under physical restraint and attended at all times to be allowed on campus. An individual who brings an animal onto university property or property controlled by the university is responsible for damage or injury caused by that animal and appropriate disposal of animal waste. If an animal disrupts the campus educational process, administrative process, or other campus functions, the owner or responsible party must remove the animal from campus immediately. With the exception of those animals excluded by this policy animals are not allowed on university property. The abandonment of animals on any UCF campus is strictly prohibited.

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## DEFINITIONS

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**Feral animal.** A once-domesticated animal that has reverted to an untamed state.

**Ride-out location.** A location activated on the UCF main campus for specific individuals to ride-out a severe weather event.

**Shelter.** A location activated for either a short- or long-term duration, for individuals who have been displaced during an emergency or disaster.

**Stray animal.** Any domestic animal that is not under physical restraint, i.e., leashed or caged, whether accompanied by a person or not.

**Therapy Animal.** An animal that serves as part of animal-assisted interventions, which are goal-oriented and structured interventions in health, education, and/or human service for the purpose of therapeutic gains and improved health and wellness. The animals' responsibility is to provide psychological or physiological therapy to individuals other than their handlers. They are not considered Service Animals or Emotional Support Animals and have no special rights of access.

**Wild animal.** A non-domesticated animal living in its natural habitat.

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## PROCEDURES

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### A. General provisions

- An animal left unattended in a vehicle, or other area, that is perceived to be in distress is to be reported to the UCF Police Department for an appropriate response. A person who leaves an animal unattended may be prosecuted.
- The owner or responsible party who wishes to bring an animal on campus for a one-time display is required to comply with university regulations and follow the Safety Action for Event (SAFE) protocol for approval prior to bringing the animal on campus. This approval may require a certificate of insurance and animal health certificates. The owner or responsible party will be liable for any damage or injury caused by the animal while on campus. For additional information, please contact the UCF Police Department at 407-823-5555.
- It is the responsibility of Facilities Operations and Landscape and Natural Resources to collect and dispose of dead animals. To report a dead animal, call the Work Control Center at 407-823-5223.

#### B. Wild or feral animals

- Wild or feral animals will be left alone if no immediate threat to human safety or property is evident.
- If an animal is exhibiting dangerous or destructive behavior, or posing an immediate threat, notify the UCF Police Department immediately. The UCF Police Department will monitor the animal until Florida Wildlife Control, or another appropriate party is contacted and arrives on the scene. If the animal is deemed a threat and immediate intervention is required, the UCF Police Department may elect to remove the threat.

#### C. Stray animals

- Stray animals should be reported immediately to the UCF Police Department.
- Stray animals on campus grounds or in buildings will be turned over to local animal services.

#### D. Ride-out locations and shelters

- During the activation of a student, essential personnel, or general population ride-out location or shelter, animals will not be permitted in the ride-out locations and shelters, other than animals specifically excluded by this policy. Individuals who must be on campus during these times will need to make alternate arrangements for their pets and may bring them to a county-run, pet-friendly shelter.

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## RESOURCES

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[UCF Office of Nondiscrimination & Accommodations Compliance - Service and Emotional Support Animals Policy](#)

[Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee \(IACUC\) Requirements Regarding the Necessity for Protocol Submission and Approval in Teaching and Research](#)

[UCF Regulation UCF-4.0292 Potentially Hazardous Events](#)

[Housing-Specific Policy Information](#)

[Student Accessibility Services:](#)

[UCF Athletics Game Day Animal Policy](#)

[Orange County Pet Friendly Shelters](#)

[Seminole County Pet Friendly Shelters](#)

[UCF Pet Plan Checklist:](#)

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## **RELATED DOCUMENT**

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[Safety Action for Event \(SAFE\) Online Approval Form](#)

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## **CONTACTS**

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Office of the Chief of Police  
407-823-5555  
UCFPD Email: [policedept@ucf.edu](mailto:policedept@ucf.edu)

**POLICY APPROVAL**  
**(For use by the Office of the President)**

Policy Number: 3-400.3

Initiating Authority:  Digitally signed by Misty Shepherd  
Date: 2021.05.28 14:22:28 -04'00' Date: 5/28/2021

University Policies and Procedures Committee Chair:  Date: May 24, 2021

Alexander Cartwright Digitally signed by Alexander Cartwright  
Date: 2021.06.03 16:28:58 -04'00' President or Designee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 6/3/2021

History: 3-400 12/4/2007; 3-400.1 2/27/2009; 3-400.2 7/14/2014