



UHH

Animals on Campus Policy

This policy establishes regulations regarding all domestic, feral, and service animals other than those related to instructional and/or research activity. The areas affected by this policy are limited to the grounds and buildings located on the main University of Hawaii at Hilo (UH-Hilo) Campus.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to protect the University community from hazards associated with or caused by animals, both domestic and wild. The University recognizes that feral animals often select the campus grounds as their habitat and that occasionally owners of domestic and service animals bring their animals to the campus. This policy is intended to optimize the safety and health of faculty, staff, students, and visitors as it relates to animals on campus.

Definitions

For this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

- **Domestic Animal:** An animal that has been trained or adapted to living in a human environment. Such animals include, but are not limited to dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, and other types of household pets.
- **Feral Animal:** A once-domestic animal that has reverted to an untamed state.

A feral cat can be defined as any cat roaming unattended, abandoned or unsocialized to be kept in a typical pet home. These cats are often born in the wild!
- **Service Animal:** Any animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items. Service animals are working to assist the handler and should not be considered as pets.

Animal Control

The abandonment of animals on campus grounds is strictly forbidden.

The following animal control policies apply to these different types of animals:

Feral Animals/Cats

Feral animals, including cats, that are not a risk and do not represent a hazard, cause property damage, or create a public nuisance, shall be allowed to inhabit the campus grounds.

At the University of Hawaii at Hilo, colonies of feral or un-owned cats live on campus property. While the exact numbers are not known, the population is estimated to be close to a hundred. Typically, cats in a warm climate can be expected to have two to three litters of four to eight kittens per year. Because many of these cats are not socialized or tame, they cannot be caught and placed in homes. They are just too wild for close contact with humans.

Feeding and entrapment of feral animals/cats for rescue purposes or surgical sterilization is acceptable as long as doing so does not create a hazard, cause property damage, or create a public nuisance. Trapped animals will be taken to be spayed or neutered and may be returned to their former habitat, if efforts at socialization and subsequent home placement fail. The University has established a program with the Humane Society that has agreed to spay and neuter trapped cats.

The feeding of feral cats shall be restricted only to feeding stations that are located throughout the campus, away from buildings, at the designated locations established by University of Hawaii-Hilo for that purpose.

Domestic Animals

Domestic animals are not allowed in campus buildings and both interior hallways and exterior walkways/sidewalks where campus business is conducted, including plazas, offices, classrooms, meeting rooms, dorms, lounges and dining rooms. This paragraph does not apply to service animals or to animals used for scientific purposes or by law enforcement officers.

In special or emergency circumstances, approval may be obtained from the Environmental Safety Officer for animals to be allowed in campus buildings for a limited time.

Domestic animals must be under the direct control of a responsible person while on campus grounds, restrained by either a leash that does not exceed 6 feet in length or in an appropriate animal carrier, crate, cage or kennel. Domestic animals under voice command are not considered on leash and are not permitted.

Domestic animals brought to campus must be appropriately licensed and fully inoculated, with the burden of proof on the owner. Domestic animals shall not be left unattended in any vehicle on campus while the owner or handler is not present.

Fecal matter deposited by any domestic animal brought to campus must be removed immediately and properly disposed of by the owner.

Domestic animals found tethered, unattended, or abandoned shall be humanely impounded in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

The University reserves the right to prohibit domestic animals from any campus event.

Service Animals

UH Hilo complies with federal and state disability civil rights laws and permits service animals where participants and members of the public are normally allowed, including food service areas.

A service animal will be allowed for an individual that has a disability that substantially impairs one or more essential life functions to include: walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, performing manual tasks, caring for oneself and working. Therapy animals that do not assist an individual with a disability in the activities of daily living, as listed previously as essential life functions, are not considered as service animals.

The University requires that any student using a service animal on campus notify the Disability Services Office. That office can be contacted by phone at (808) 933-0816/TTY: 933-3334 or by email at uds@hawaii.edu. Employees (faculty and staff) requiring the use of a service animal as part of their employment should contact the EEO/AA Office by email at jkuewa@hawaii.edu or by phone (808) 933-0525 for more information. It is strongly advised that visitors requiring the use of a service animal contact the Disability Services Office.

Service animals must be on a leash and/or under the control of a responsible person at all times. Note: A service animal handler does not have to use a leash if he or she is unable, if using a leash would harm him or her, or if the animal must perform a task without use of a leash. If a service animal's behavior is detrimental, disruptive of operations or poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others it may be excluded from access to UHH facilities.

A service animal is not required to wear a collar, tag, vest, or other identifying equipment indicating that it is a trained service animal. The student who is the designated handler of the service animal, however, must register the animal with the Director of Disability Services and have a physician's statement attesting to the disability, and that the service animal provides assistance having to do with that disability. The handler should have his/her service animal licensed in the State of Hawaii and fully inoculated, with the burden of proof on the handler.

An employee who is a designated handler of a service animal must contact and notify the EEO/AA Office of their need/intent to utilize a service animal on campus shall also have a physician's statement attesting to the disability, and that the service animal provides assistance having to do with that disability.

Fecal matter deposited by a service animal must be removed immediately and disposed of properly. The burden is on the service animal handler to arrange for removal of fecal matter if he or she is personally unable to perform the task. If necessary, the animal handler may arrange for the removal of the fecal matter by a third party.

Responsibilities

Reasonable accommodations for a student to any provision of this policy can be requested by contacting the Director of Disability Services by phone at (808) 933-0816/TTY: 933-3334, by email at uds@hawaii.edu or in writing or in person to the Director of Disability Services UH Hilo, Division of Student Affairs, 200 W. Kawili St., Hilo, HI 96720. Employees requesting accommodations can contact the EEO/AA Office by phone at (808) 933-0525, in writing to the Disability Program Coordinator, EEO/AA Office at 200 W. Kawili St., Hilo HI 96720 or email at jkuewa@hawaii.edu.

The Director of Housing for the residence facilities and the Environmental Safety Officer is responsible for providing the final determination on the risk, potential hazard, potential for property damage, or potential for public nuisance of any animal on campus grounds and shall educate members of the campus community by informing them of the key aspects of this policy.

University Security shall implement appropriate enforcement action.

The Humane Society – Hawaii Island will be utilized by University Security to place for adoption, humanely relocate or otherwise handle animals, if required.

Employees and students who fail to comply or who interfere with the implementation of this policy, including the feeding or relocation of animals, will be subject to corrective action consistent with applicable employment agreements, collective bargaining agreements, student conduct codes, and Hawaii laws and regulations. Enforcement procedures will take into consideration factors such as the severity or frequency of non-compliance or failure to correct the infraction.

Continuous Renewal

This policy shall be reviewed in ten years from its effective date to determine its effectiveness and appropriateness. This policy may be reviewed before that time as necessary to reflect substantial organizational, physical, or academic change(s) at UH Hilo or UH System policy.