

ANIMALS ON CAMPUS POLICY

INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this policy is to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of all members of the University community. This policy applies to all University buildings and applies to all students, staff, and visitors.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

2. Due to a Landlord clause at the main campus building and that the University is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and comfortable environment for all staff, students, and visitors the University has adopted a no animal policy for all its premises, except for the following:

Assistance Animals

- a) Assistance animals are animals that have been specially trained to assist disabled people, such as guide dogs, hearing dogs, or service dogs.
- b) The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 states the following as definition of an assistance dog.:

'Assistance dogs are dogs that have been trained to work in partnership with disabled people to assist them in accessing services and to help them to improve their mobility, independence, and quality of life. Assistance dogs support people with a wide range of disabilities; including visual impairments, deafness, physical disabilities, and hidden disabilities. Assistance dogs are highly trained working dogs: they are not pets. Assistance dogs can be recognised by the harnesses and coloured jackets that they wear. A jacket will usually display the name of the organisation that trained the dog in question.'

Occasional Therapy Pet Visits

- c) A few times a year we arrange a structured therapy pet activity as part of a University therapeutic programme coordinated by our student affairs and estates and facilities teams. The attending animal must be suitably trained and be registered with an organization such as Pets as Therapy recognized by the University.

Exclusions

- d) Emotional support animals are currently not formally classed as assistance animals in the UK. It is the current position of the University that personal emotional support animals are not considered as assistance animals and therefore do not have the same right of access.
- e) Pets that are personal animals that belong to staff, students, or visitors are not permitted inside University buildings. Pets must not be left in parked vehicles on campus or tied up outside buildings. The University cannot accept any liability for pets brought onto campus.

COMPLIANCE

- 3. All members of the University community are obliged to comply with this policy in line with their staff contract or the Student Code of Conduct. Concerns about non-compliance of this policy can be emailed to estates&facilities@richmond.ac.uk

VERSION MANAGEMENT

Responsible Department: Estates and Facilities			
Approving Body: Operations Committee			
Version no.	Key Changes	Date of Approval	Date of Effect
1.0	Initial approved version	October 2023	October 2023
		Restricted Access? <i>Tick as appropriate:</i> Yes ☐ No ☒	