

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 lease restrictions at the main campus and health and safety considerations, the University maintains a no-animal policy, subject to defined exemptions listed below.

Assistance Animals

- 2.1 Assistance animals are animals that have been specially trained to assist disabled people, such as guide dogs, hearing dogs, or service dogs. This policy supports compliance with the Equality Act 2010, which requires reasonable adjustments to be made for individuals with disabilities, including access rights for assistance animals.

Occasional Therapy Pet Visits

- 2.2 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 organisation such as Pets as Therapy recognized by the University.

Exclusions

- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 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: University Board (on recommendation of Operations Committee)			
Version no.	Key Changes	Date of Approval	Date of Effect
1.0	Initial Version	October 2023	October 2023
1.1	The policy now explicitly references the Equality Act 2010, aligning it with current UK legislation and removing sole reliance on the outdated Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Formatted and reapproved for 2025-26 AY	24 July 2025	September 2025
	Annual review completed. No changes required; policy reapproved for 2026–27.	02 June 2026	September 2026
		Restricted Access? <i>Tick as appropriate:</i> Yes ☐ No ☒	