



# Pet-Friendly Housing Policy

## Purpose

The North Carolina Wesleyan University Pet-Friendly Housing Policy will allow resident students the privilege of bringing their pet to live on campus while the student is enrolled in classes. The college is committed to providing a safe and well-maintained environment for all students residing in pet-friendly housing. It is the responsibility of the pet owner to protect the rights of all students, ensure a safe and healthy living and learning environment, and practice behaviors that support the upkeep of university facilities and beauty of campus. Students who bring pets to campus are responsible for understanding and abiding by the regulations of the pet policy. Every pet owner is encouraged to carefully consider the advantages and disadvantages of the campus environment for their pet.

Pet owners assume all responsibility for pet actions regardless of circumstances. Pet owners are liable for any harm or damage their pet causes to another person, animal, or property. The university is not responsible for injury or harm to pets resulting from any cause including, but not limited to wildlife, other pets, people, vehicles, fire, inclement weather, and evacuation plans. Members of the campus community are advised to behave respectfully and responsibility toward pets they encounter on campus. Likewise, pet owners must respect requests by any member of the campus community who does not wish to interact directly with their pet by appropriately restraining their pet and keeping their pet at a safe distance. Having a pet on campus is a privilege and not a right.

## Permitted Pets

Pets allowed in approved pet-friendly campus housing are limited to cats, dogs, and fish. Cats and dogs are permitted in the following designated residence halls and areas: Taylor Hall. Pets are not allowed in non-designated pet residence halls at any time.

## Dogs

- Dogs must be properly registered through the Office of Residence Life and Housing before residing in campus housing.
- Dogs must be at least one year old and have lived with the student/student's family for at least six months prior to living on campus. (verified via veterinarian records)
- Dogs may not exceed forty (40) pounds when fully grown.
- Dogs must have valid core vaccinations (DAPP and Rabies) along with Bordetella vaccine that will not expire during the academic year in which the animal is registered.
- Dogs must be treated for fleas/ticks and be spayed or neutered prior to arriving on campus.
- Dogs may not exhibit any aggressive behavior or have any history of an attack causing

injury against any person or other pet.

- Dogs are only permitted in designated residential communities as stated by the Office of Residence Life and Housing.
- Dogs that are purchased, fostered, adopted, or otherwise owned after the pet registration deadline has passed will not be approved as a registered pet for that academic year.
- The Dean of Students and Director of Residence Life have the final authority to decide which dogs are permitted to reside in campus housing.
- The following dog breeds are prohibited: Pit Bull, Rottweiler, Doberman, and Chow.

## **Cats**

- Cats must be at least six months old and have lived with the student/student's family at least three months prior to living on campus (verified via veterinarian records)
- Cats must be litter box trained.
- Cats must have valid core vaccinations (DAPP and Rabies) along with the Feline Leukemia vaccine that will not expire during the academic year in which the animal is registered.
- Cats must be treated for fleas/ticks and be spayed or neutered prior to arriving on campus.
- Cats may not exhibit any aggressive behavior or have any history of attacking or causing injury against any person or other pet.
- Cats are only permitted in designated residential communities as stated by the Office of Residence Life.
- Outdoor or feral cats are not permitted to live in campus housing.
- A cat that is purchased, fostered, adopted or otherwise owned after the pet registration deadline has passed will not be approved as a registered pet for that academic year.
- The Dean of Students and Director of Residence Life have the final authority to decide which cats are permitted to reside in campus housing.

## **Fish**

- A fish aquarium must not exceed five (5) gallons.
- A student may only have one aquarium.
- Students are not required to register or pay the pet fee for fish.

Owners are not permitted to breed any pet or domestic animals on campus for food or other purposes. Only one pet is permitted per student.

First-Year and transfer students are eligible to apply for a pet-approved housing assignment pending the availability of a pet-approved housing space.

If a pet owner has been given permission by Residence Life staff to remain on campus during a break period (Fall, Thanksgiving, or Spring Break), all rules of the pet policy still apply. When owners leave campus during a break, they must take their pet home or make arrangements for the pet to stay off campus. Pets are not allowed to be left in a residence hall room unattended during any break (excluding fish for breaks less than 14 days in duration). Pet owners who leave their pet on campus unattended during a break period will be subject to disciplinary action and the animal will be turned over to the animal shelter.

If a student has a prohibited or non-approved pet, it must be removed immediately and the student will be fined \$250.00 in addition to any extermination and cleaning fees. Repeated violations may result in more severe sanctions.

Pet owners are strongly encouraged to purchase pet liability insurance and pet health insurance.

## Registration

All dogs and cats residing on campus must be registered with the Office of Residence Life and Housing. The pet registration fee is \$150 per semester/\$300 per year. This fee does not cover the repairs of any damages that might be caused by the pet. Any damages made by the pet will be charged separately to the owner's student account. **The pet registration fee is due by July 1 for Fall occupancy.**

Pet registration must be completed prior to housing selection. Approved registrations are valid for one academic year (August to May). Students must register their pet every academic year. Dogs and cats are required to be treated for fleas and ticks and spayed or neutered prior to arriving on campus. Certification that these procedures have been performed must be provided with the registration documents. All pets must be in good health while residing on campus.

### Animal Registration Checklist:

- Pet Fee (\$150/semester, \$300/year)
- Up-to-date photo of the animal
- Veterinary certification that animal has resided with owner for the minimum period
- Spay or neuter certification
- Core vaccination records (Rabies and DAPP)
  - Bordetella vaccination and heartworm prevention for dogs
  - Feline Leukemia vaccination for cats
- Proof of flea/tick prevention
- Copy of animal liability insurance policy (if applicable).

## Pet Owner Responsibilities

If NCWU approves a pet application, the pet owner is solely responsible for the custody and care of the approved pet and must meet the following requirements:

1. Regardless of the circumstances, the pet owner is ultimately responsible for the actions of the pet.
2. Approved Pet owners may not transfer daily care responsibilities for their animal to others.
3. The Owner is responsible for assuring the pet does not unduly interfere with routine activities of the University community or cause difficulties for other students, faculty, or staff on campus.
4. All pets must reside with their owners or in their owners' room when on campus.
5. All dogs and cats must be housebroken before arriving on campus.
6. Pets are not allowed inside any buildings except approved residence halls.
7. All pets must be on a leash at all times and must be under vocal command. Under no

circumstances are pets allowed to be outside unsupervised and/or off-leash.

8. Pets are not permitted in residence hall bathrooms.
9. Bathing of the animals must occur off campus.
10. All pets shall wear a tag with the owner's name and phone number as well as Rabies Vaccination verification. The tag must be always attached to the collar or harness.
11. Pets cannot be tied up or leashed to an object or building when outside or in a hallway/area while owner is not present.
12. Pet owners are required to attend promptly to the pet's toileting needs and clean up and properly dispose of the animal's waste in a safe and sanitary manner. Animal feces must not be disposed of in any trash receptacle or through the sewer system inside any building. Feces must be removed from university grounds by securing in a plastic bag and placed in an outside garbage dumpster or trash can (this includes cat litter).
13. Pet owners are required to ensure that animals are well cared for. Any evidence of mistreatment or abuse may result in immediate removal of the pet and/or disciplinary action for the individual.
14. Approved pets may not be left overnight in university housing to be cared for by any individual other than the pet owner. If pet owners are to be absent from their residence halls overnight or longer, the animal must accompany the pet owner or the pet owner must make accommodations to board the pet off-campus. The pet owner is responsible for ensuring that the pet is contained, as appropriate, when the pet owner is not present.
15. Pet owners must fully cooperate with NCWU personnel regarding this policy and develop procedures for care of the animals (e.g., cleaning the animal, feeding/watering the animal, using the designated outdoor relief area, disposing of feces, etc.).
16. Pet owner is solely responsible for regular and routine cleaning of floors, kennels, crates, and cages.
17. Pets must be caged or crated when the pet owner is not in the assigned living area.
18. Pet owners must display the Approved Animal Card on the outside of their room door at all times.
19. All college housing is subject to scheduled health, safety, service, and maintenance checks. An authorized staff member will conduct periodic inspections, which may be without prior notice and without the resident present. Premises may be entered as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct and Housing Agreement. Crating, caging, and stationing pets when unattended is vital to protecting the safety of the pet and college staff when this procedure is carried out. For the safety of staff and animals, facilities staff may reschedule work orders if pets are not crated, caged, or stationed while unattended. If work orders cannot be repaired in a timely manner due to failure to properly crate an animal, pet owners may be referred to the Dean of Students for appropriate action.

Pet inspections may occur at any time, whether announced or unannounced, and the purpose will be to ensure:

- Living area is free of damage and meets health/safety guidelines
  - Vaccination/treatment records are up-to-date
  - Animal is in good health
  - Owner and animal are in the assigned living space.
20. Facilities staff may not enter a room to make repairs or spray for bugs if a pet is inside. Pet owners will need to remove their animals during that time.
  21. Pet gates across bedroom doors, front doors, hallways, and stairwells, or that could impede fire egress are prohibited. This is to maintain a clear path for fire egress and safety as required by state and local fire codes.
  22. Any odor of an animal emanating from the residence is not acceptable and must be remedied immediately.
  23. Pet owners may be charged for any damage caused by their pet.
  24. Pet owners are responsible for all actions of their approved pet. This includes:
    - a. Damage beyond normal wear and tear expected for spaces without the presence of animals.
    - b. Aggression toward humans or other animals
    - c. Injury of humans or other animals
    - d. Disruption during other meetings or gatherings, indoors or outside
  25. Should the pet be removed from the premises for any reason, the owner is expected to fulfill their housing obligation for the remainder of the housing contract.
  26. If the pet owner should become unable to care for the animal, their emergency contact will be notified and asked to remove the animal from the premises. If the emergency contact cannot be reached, the University reserves the right to act in the best interests of the animal.

## Violations

Violations of the pet-friendly housing policy may be addressed as follows:

- First offense: written warning
- Second offense: removal of the animal

Violations that are egregious or which endanger the safety of the animal or others may result in removal of the animal for the first offense.

The University reserves the right to assess a community monetary charge to all pet owners should it become necessary to remediate a flea/tick infestation within the residence hall.

## Emotional Support Animals (ESAs) and Service Animals:

ESAs and service animal approvals are coordinated through the Office of Counseling and Accessibility Services. While these animals must follow the guidelines stipulated in the University's Pet-Friendly Housing policy, these animals are allowed to reside in any campus residence hall (with limitations) and are not subject to the pet registration fee. For more information on obtaining approval for an ESA or service animal, please contact the Office of Counseling and Accessibility Services at [Accessibility@ncwc.edu](mailto:Accessibility@ncwc.edu).

### Notice of Amendment

The University reserves the right to amend this policy at any time. Written notification of amendment will be provided via campus email to approved pet owners.