



THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Faculty Policy on Companion Animals on Campus

It is accepted that animals contribute to and often enhance the work of the Faculty. The following concerns relate to both Animal Welfare and Occupational Health and Safety:

1) Unpredictable and/or uncontrolled animal behavior

Animals on the campus may pose a risk of barking, biting, scratching or upsetting people in the workplace who may be exposed to the animal; there is also a risk of the animal interfering with work or contributing to accidents.

2) Allergy and hygiene issues

Staff and students may have allergies to certain animals and the animals may introduce pathogens into the workplace; poor animal toilet habits create hygiene, health and safety issues and result in additional cleaning.

3) Animal welfare issues

Both humans and animals are unpredictable. Therefore, an animal may be exposed to risks and disturbances from the campus environment and these could result in it being harmed. The campus has heavy vehicular traffic that is often obscured.

Faculty Policy

Drawing on the University Policy on Children on Campus, companion animals are allowed on campus only in exceptional circumstances, and only with written approval of the Faculty Manager.

Unless for University approved teaching, it is not appropriate for pets to be brought into lecture theatres, labs, workshops, classrooms, meeting rooms, common rooms or tea rooms.

It is not appropriate for a pet to be kept in a foyer or other public area of a building. In shared office areas, work colleagues should be consulted in advance, as some may have legitimate objections.

Exceptional Circumstances

Valid exceptional circumstances would include sick or injured animals visiting the clinic sometime during the working day. For their own safety and the safety of people in the vicinity, any sick or injured animals brought on campus under these circumstances need to be appropriately restrained and controlled in accordance with the Companion Animals Act. Pending veterinary examination, they need to be contained in a pet carrier, cage or enclosure of some kind.

Exempted from this policy are working dogs, assistance dogs and animals used for University approved teaching and research.