



Title:	Guide and Service Dog Policy
Policy Area:	Operations – Ancillary and Business Services
Policy Number:	E.3.5
See also: (related policies)	Accommodation of Employees Policy Discrimination, Bullying and Harassment Policy

Effective Date of Policy:	September 5, 2018
Approval Date:	September 5, 2018
Applies to:	All employees and students within the Okanagan College community and all others who have been granted access to Okanagan College’s facilities.
Approving Body:	President
Supersedes or New:	New
Authority:	College and Institute Act Human Rights Code Guide Dog and Service Dog Act Guide Dog and Service Dog Regulation

The following are responsible for the administration of this policy:

Primary Office:	Contact:
Community Engagement and Careers	Campus Administrator at each campus – Penticton, Kelowna, Vernon and Salmon Arm

1. Policy Statement

- 1.1. Okanagan College is committed to providing an equitable and accessible environment which promotes, involves and reflects our diverse communities. At the same time, Okanagan College must respect the health and safety of the College’s employees, students and community.

- 1.2. The College will take reasonable steps to accommodate employees, students and visitors of the College who are disabled, or whose participation in the College's community is otherwise affected by barriers created by an area protected by the British Columbia Human Rights Code, unless it would cause undue hardship for the College to do so.

2. Policy Details

- 2.1. This policy applies to any person on the College's property with an animal, including a pet.
- 2.2. Animals are prohibited in College vehicles and buildings (including College residences) unless the animal is:
 - (a) owned or authorized by the College or deemed necessary for academic purposes;
 - (b) a guide dog or service dog as defined in the British Columbia Guide Dog and Service Dog Act and Guide Dog and Service Dog Regulation, or other applicable legislation;
 - (c) accompanied by a dog trainer, is a dog-in-training as defined in the Guide Dog and Service Dog Act and Guide Dog and Service Dog Regulation;
 - (d) a working animal, such as police, security or detection dogs when these animals are being used for such purpose and accompanied by an authorized person; or
 - (e) necessary for accommodation of a person's medical need for a service animal;
 - (i) When a service animal is required under section 2.2(e), the person will be required to provide appropriate documentation verifying the certification of the animal, and provide medical documentation to support the need for a service animal. To obtain permission for a service animal to be on campus as an accommodation of a person's medical need, contact the Campus Administrator.
(Collectively referred to as "Approved Animal(s)")
- 2.3. The College reserves the right to revoke permission for an Approved Animal to enter and remain on College property should the Approved Animal or the owner, handler, trainer or guardian of the Approved Animal breach any of the provisions of this Policy or other College policies.
- 2.4. The College assumes no responsibility for any animal or pet, including Approved Animals. An owner, handler, trainer or guardian shall be held responsible for any and all damage, loss or expense caused by their animal while on College property.
- 2.5. Owners, handlers, trainers and guardians must comply with all provincial and municipal bylaws pertaining to licencing and animal control.
- 2.6. It is the responsibility of each person bringing an Approved Animal onto College property to comply with the College's rules and responsibilities regarding animals outlined in this policy.
- 2.7. Guide or service dogs must be appropriately identified as such, in accordance with the Guide Dog and Service Dog Act and Guide Dog and Service Dog Regulation, and any other applicable legislation.
- 2.8. The College reserves the right to ask any animal's owner, handler, trainer or guardian for reasonable identification or verification confirming that an animal is an Approved Animal. Failure

or refusal to provide such verification may result in the animal's owner, handler, trainer or guardian and the animal being asked to leave or removed from College property.

- 2.9. No Approved Animal is permitted to be left unattended at any time while on College property. Any unattended animal will be removed from the College premises.
- 2.10. All Approved Animals on College property must be properly restrained and under the care and control of their owner, handler, trainer or guardian at all times.
- 2.11. A person who brings an Approved Animal onto College property is required to clean up after the animal.
- 2.12. No animal aggression will be tolerated. If an animal poses a health or safety risk to any person on College property, the animal must be removed from College property immediately.
- 2.13. The College reserves the right to remove any animal in violation of this Policy including, but not limited to, animals, including Approved Animals, that are:
 - (a) aggressive or putting others at risk;
 - (b) damaging property;
 - (c) seeking attention or food;
 - (d) running freely, urinating or defecating in inappropriate areas;
 - (e) disrupting employees, students or guests of the College;
 - (f) barking or growling without reason.
- 2.14. Upon receiving a complaint regarding a specific animal, the Campus Administrator may rescind permission to bring the Approved Animal onto College property. Reasonable steps toward resolving any animal-related issue will be explored prior to 'banning' a specific animal. Comments and concerns may be directed, in writing, to the Regional Dean at each campus.