

Administrative and M&O Summary for Dogs and Cats

1. Dog on Campus

- a. Dogs, even the friendly neighbor's dogs, are not appropriate running free on campus. There are issues with feces, urination, trash, student distraction, allergy issues, and possible biting issues.
- b. Many students are afraid of dogs and may run from them. In some dogs, this will trigger a chase response.
- c. More bites happen with small dogs than with large dogs. Large dog bites can be fatal.
- d. Use caution when dealing with the animal. Only approach if the dog is calm. If employees are reluctant to approach, don't require them to do so. Call animal control instead.
- e. If there is a tag with an owner phone number, call that first. Remember that dogs running free are at risk for getting hit by cars, eaten by coyotes, and other hazards. The humane thing to do is return them to their owners. If there is no contact number, call animal control.
- f. If the dog is a repeat offender, call animal control first. Dogs that are able to get out of enclosures are often poorly trained and they cannot be trusted not to bite. Owners need to understand that there is a safety issue for both the pet and for the students.
- g. If there is suspicion that the dog is rabid or vicious, secure everyone indoors and call animal control.

2. Cats

- a. Stray cats should **NOT BE FED** under any circumstances. If food is left out it also attracts raccoons, skunks, squirrels, rats, mice, and possum. If they do not have a source of food, they will leave.
- b. Stray cats may be cute but they carry diseases such as rabies, ringworm, toxoplasmosis, cat scratch fever, and more. Some people are quite allergic to cat dander and they can trigger asthma attacks in some individuals. There are a host of other diseases attached to the other animals attracted to the cat food.
- c. If a cat has a collar and a tag, and they are calm enough to approach, call the number on the tag. However, for habitual offenders, call animal control.
- d. Feral cats usually avoid human contact. Feral cats are non-domesticated cats living in the wild. They were born in the wild, and have never had a home. Their behavior is completely different from domesticated cats. They are truly wild animals! They can be vicious and it is not always easy to tell whether an animal is a domestic homeless cat or a feral cat.
- e. If employees still want to feed the cats, ask them to really help the cats. Consider TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) Programs. Contact your local animal control for TNR guidelines.