

**BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL
POLICY REGARDING ANIMALS ON
LAW SCHOOL PROPERTY**

ISSUING AUTHORITY: Office of the Dean and President

RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS: Dean of Students; Director of Accessibility, Equal Opportunity and Title IX Coordinator; Director of Residence Life; Director of Campus Safety

LAST REVISED: August 11, 2026

PURPOSE OF THE POLICY: The purpose of this policy is to set forth the rules governing the presence of animals on Law School property.

I. TO WHOM THIS POLICY APPLIES:

This policy applies to all students, faculty, administrators, staff, volunteers, visitors, and vendors on Law School property.

II. POLICY DEFINITIONS:

Law School Property- Law School property is any outdoor and indoor property that is owned or controlled by Brooklyn Law School. This includes buildings, dormitory and faculty residences, classrooms, workspace, conference rooms, event space, lobbies, courtyards and on and off- campus sites used for Law School events.

Animals - This definition includes but is not limited to cats, dogs, birds, and fish.

Pets -Animals that are not trained and employed as service or assistance animals. Faculty and staff residents of Feil Hall must request approval for pets from the Director of Residence Life, and approval is subject to the discretion of the Law School. Pets are prohibited in student residences.

Service Animals - Any dog or miniature horse that is trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a disabled individual. ¹ This definition includes animals that are training to become service animals.

Emotional Support Animal - An emotional support animal is not a pet. It is an animal deemed necessary to afford a disabled individual an equal opportunity to use and enjoy an apartment dwelling, or to participate in, or benefit from, any housing program.² Excluded from the definition of emotional support animals are wild animals (whether born or bred in captivity or in the wild) such as reptiles, farm animals

¹ Under New York Law, it is illegal to falsely identify a dog as a guide, service, therapy or hearing dog.

² For example, an emotional support animal may be needed to alleviate one or more identified symptoms of a person's disability.

such as pigs, nonhuman primates such as monkeys, and any other animals which may pose a threat to health, safety, and well-being of the Law School community.

Owner- The owner of a service animal, emotional support animal, or pet, or an individual attempting to bring an animal onto Law School property.

Disability- Any physical, medical, mental or psychological impairment, or a history or record of such impairment.

IV. POLICY STATEMENT:

All students, faculty, administrators, staff, volunteers, visitors, and vendors are prohibited from bringing animals onto Law School property, unless (1) the animal is an approved pet, a service animal, or an emotional support animal as defined above and further explained below, (2) the animal's presence is specifically approved as a reasonable accommodation for a disability, or (3) the animal is brought to campus as part of an approved on-campus event. Students and employees will be subject discipline for violations of this policy.

V. PROCESS FOR REQUESTING PERMISSION TO BRING ANIMALS ON CAMPUS:

A. Service Animals on Campus and in Feil Hall

- i. A faculty member, administrator, staff member, or volunteer seeking to bring a service animal to the Law School's campus on a regular basis must register the animal with the Director of Accessibility, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX Coordinator to ensure entry to the Law School's premises. Students are encouraged to register service animals. The presence of the service animal may otherwise be mistaken as a violation of this policy.
- ii. If it is not readily apparent that the animal is a service animal, the Law School is permitted to ask (i) if the animal is required because of a disability and (ii) what work or task the animal is trained to perform.
- iii. Individuals with a service animal who are not affiliated with the Law School and visiting or attending a Law School-sponsored event are requested to inform the guard at the front desk or at the event of the presence of the service animal.
- iv. Service animals must be leashed, harnessed, or tethered when in use, unless such devices interfere with the service animal's work. In that case, voice, signal, or other effective methods can be used to control the animal.

B. Emotional Support Animals in Feil Hall

- i. Students with a disability who are seeking to live with an emotional support animal in Feil Hall must contact the Director of Accessibility, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX Coordinator to apply for a reasonable accommodation.³
- ii. Animals brought into Feil Hall by students without an approved reasonable accommodation will be removed pursuant to this policy at the student's expense.
- iii. If approved, emotional support animals are limited to the dwelling unit (and where necessary to relieve itself). They may not be taken to class or Law School sponsored activities or events.
- iv. Emotional support animals must be leashed, harnessed, or tethered when taken outside the dwelling unit.
- v. Approval of emotional support animals is not transferrable.
- vi. Guests of residents are not eligible to bring emotional support animals to campus or to the residence hall.
- vii. Students approved to live with an emotional support animal in a Law School residence are limited to one emotional support animal, unless more than one animal is required to alleviate the effects of a disability and allow equal enjoyment of the residence.
- viii. Upon approval of an emotional support animal, the student's roommates or suitemates will be notified. If the presence of the emotional support animal will create conflicting health conditions (e.g., allergies), additional time may be required to resolve such conflicts before the emotional support animal may be allowed to reside in residence.
- ix. The Law School may limit the size of the animal if unreasonable, based on the size and configuration of assigned living space.

C. Pets in Feil Hall

- i. Faculty and staff members who live in Feil Hall may apply for permission to have pets in their residences.
- ii. Pets must be leashed, harnessed, or tethered when taken outside the dwelling unit.
- iii. All pets must be approved by the Director of Residence Life and are subject to the requirements for all animals listed below.

³ In support of their application, students must provide information from a health professional with whom they have a *bona fide* treatment relationship. Documentation generated from fee-for-service entities whose business purpose is to supply assistance animal certification via online questionnaires and/or Skype or phone interviews will not meet this requirement.

VI. REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL ANIMALS ON CAMPUS:

- A.** Service animals, emotional support animals, and pets must be house-trained and not disruptive.
- B.** The owner of the service animal, emotional support animal, or pet is responsible for the care and well-being of the animal and must always personally supervise and maintain control of the animal while on Law School property.
- C.** All service animals, emotional support animals, and pets must be safe, reasonably obedient, and non-aggressive toward other animals and people. The animal is not to be left in the custody of others in the residence or on Law School property.
- D.** Owners are responsible for complying with state and local laws regarding training, registration, vaccinations,⁴ and tags.^{5,6}
- E.** For animals residing in a Law School residence, proof of vaccinations appropriate to the type of animal must be provided to the Director of Accessibility, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX Coordinator for service and assistance animals and the Director of Residence Life for pets residing in the Law School's residences. A picture of the service or assistance animal must also be provided to the Director of Accessibility, Equal Opportunity and Title IX Coordinator and a picture of the pet must be provided to the Director of Residence Life for identification.
- F.** Owners may not leave their animals unattended in Feil Hall residences, except for reasonable periods such as to attend classes. Any animal left in the residence for an unreasonable period will be referred to animal control.
- G.** Law School staff are not required to care for any animal, even in the event that staff deem it necessary to evacuate an animal from Feil Hall.
- H.** The owner will be responsible for all costs associated with the impoundment of an animal.
- I.** Owners are responsible for removing waste created by the animal and are solely responsible for all damages to Law School property and persons created by the animal.

⁴ Cats and dogs must have current vaccination against rabies.

⁵ Owners of dogs must provide a picture of the NYC metal dog tag as proof of local licensing.

⁶ Animals that are too young to receive appropriate vaccinations will not be allowed to reside in Feil Hall.

- J. The Law School may remove an animal if it: (1) poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others; (2) would cause substantial physical damage to the property of others; or (3) is unreasonably disruptive or fails to comply with the terms of occupancy, including this policy.

VII. PROCESS FOR REPORTING DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

If an animal exhibits aggressive behavior or poses a threat to health or safety, please contact Campus Safety immediately at **718-780-7506**.

If an animal's owner fails to maintain control over their service or emotional support animal, this failure should be reported to the Director of Accessibility, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX at **(718) 780-0377**. If the animal is a pet, the failure should be reported to the Director of Residence Life at **(718) 780-0333**.

Pursuant to Section 11.03 of NYC Health Code, the Law School will [report all animal bites](#) within 24 hours of an event.

VIII. RETALIATION:

Discrimination, harassment, or retaliation against owners of service or emotional support animals or those seeking approval for emotional support animals is strictly prohibited.

IX. SANCTIONS:

Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action and may be reported to the appropriate State Character and Fitness Committees if the violator is a student.

X. DISCLAIMER

This Policy does not form an agreement of any kind. It may be altered, modified, or rescinded at the discretion of Brooklyn Law School.