

**Policy Title:** Dog Policy  
**Policy #:** 2017-1-002-002  
**Effective Date:** September 11, 2017  
**Category:** General Institutional / Faculty, Staff, Students, Vendors, Guests  
**Responsible Office:** Campus Life and Student Affairs

<b>Table of Contents:</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Dog Policy</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Exceptions</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Resources/Questions</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Forms</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Authority</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>History</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Revisions</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>4</b>

**Summary**

Paul Smith’s College is a community that embraces pets and other animals. However, as a college it is necessary to establish clear policies that ensure the health and safety of people and animals. This policy provides a set of reasonable guidelines for dogs on campus. It also outlines the obligations of animal owners to the Paul Smiths community and the dogs they are responsible for.

Having a dog on campus is a privilege, not a right. All members of the Paul Smith’s community and all visitors to the campus are bound by this policy. All members of the Paul Smith’s College community are responsible for the conduct and condition of the dogs they bring to campus. Violations of this policy could result in the loss of the privilege to bring your dog on campus. This policy applies to all Paul Smith’s facilities and grounds with the exception of privately occupied faculty/staff housing.

**Dog Policy**

Paul Smiths College permits faculty, staff, and students to bring dogs to campus subject to the following guidelines:

- With the exception of those animals listed below, the only personal pets allowed on campus are dogs.
- All PSC faculty, staff, and students who plan to bring their dogs to the main campus more than once must first be registered with the Paul Smith’s College Campus Safety office. Owners must provide documentation of their dog’s current shot/vaccination records when registering their dog. All dogs brought on campus must be current with all recommended vaccinations/shots (Canine Distemper, Canine Adenovirus (hepatitis),

Canine Parainfluenza, Canine Parvo and Rabies.). Owners will receive a specialized dog tag that must be on the dog's collar whenever they are on PSC campus.

- Dogs that show any aggressive tendencies to people or other animals are not allowed on campus.
- Every dog must be leashed at all times except in designated off-leash past the Saw Mill and in the company of its owner.
- Dogs are not allowed to wander into public areas off leash.
- The dog must not present any health or safety concern to others they encounter. If any person is uncomfortable with dogs in their general work area, or have some type of allergic reaction, then the dog will not be allowed.
- Dogs are not permitted in any public interior space including, but not limited to: residence halls, the Joan Weill library and student center, Saunders sports complex, classrooms and labs, the VIC, or any area where food is handled or served.
- Dogs are permitted in private office spaces. Dog owners must post a sign on their office door notifying the campus community and service personnel that a dog is present.
- Owners are fully responsible for any damages occurred due to their dog.
- Dog owners are responsible for cleaning up waste left by their dog. Failure to clean up the waste will result in the dog no longer being allowed on campus.
- Dogs are not permitted at indoor events.
- Dogs are not allowed to ride in school owned vehicles without prior approval by Campus Safety.
- Dogs must not be tied to trees or sign posts.

If individuals choose to bring their dogs to campus grounds, courtesy and respect must be extended to colleagues, students and visitors in the area. Dog owners will be required to keep dogs on a leash and should always consider safety, health and the possible fears others may have in the presence of animals.

**Exceptions to this policy include:**

- Service and emotional support animals as defined below
- Pets that are permitted by the College's residence hall policies and procedures for both student and live-in professional staff members
- Animals performing official law enforcement functions
- Animals that have been acquired for purpose of research and other academic pursuits
- Animals being used in a class setting for a specific pedagogical purpose, approved in advance by the instructor's Chair or the Provost

**Service Animals**

A service animal is defined by the American with Disabilities Act to be limited to certain species, and individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing

minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items. For the purposes of this policy, the definition of a service animal shall remain consistent with ADA definition as published on the ADA website ([http://www.ada.gov/service\\_animals\\_2010.htm](http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm)).

Contact the Center for Accommodative Services –Roxanne McCarty, for further information.

### **Emotional Support Animals (ESA)**

According to the Fair Housing Act, individuals with a disability may be entitled to keep an ESA as a “reasonable accommodation in housing facilities.” The ESA “would provide emotional support to persons with disabilities who have a disability-related need for such support.” In order to qualify for such an accommodation, the ESA “must be necessary to afford the individual an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling or to participate in housing service or program. Further there must be a relationship, or nexus, between the individual’s disability and the assistance the animal provides.” These animals are not considered service animals under the ADA.

Contact the Center for Accommodative Services –Roxanne McCarty, for further information.

### **Stray/Unleashed Animals**

If stray animals are found on campus, the Campus Safety Office shall notify the community to the best of its ability, giving a sufficient description in order to aid identification of the owner. If no owner is located after sufficient opportunity is given for identification of an owner, the animal will be surrendered to Animal Control.

### **Resources/Questions**

Paul Smiths College acknowledges that college policies may not anticipate every possible issue that may arise. The College therefore reserves the right to make reasonable and relevant decisions regarding the enforcement of this policy. All such decisions must be approved by Lisa Garrett-Sharp, Interim Director of the Counseling Center.

Anyone with questions about this policy should contact the Campus Safety office at: (518) 327-6300.

### **Forms**

None

### **History**

None

### **Appendices**

None



**Revisions**

9-11-17 Revision no. 1 (updated information from Accommodative Services)

9-11-17 Original

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