

VIRGINIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

<i>TITLE: Animals on Campus</i>	POLICY NUMBER: G013
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Policy Statement:

The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind (VSDB) will not permit animals, including dogs or other pets on school property when students are on campus. Exceptions to this policy include service animals trained and certified to assist individuals with disabilities, animals that are authorized to be in the classroom or dormitory as part of a learning experience for students, and in certain limited circumstances, animals authorized by VSDB to enter designated areas around campus on a leash *and* under the direct control of the owner/handler at all times. The purpose of this policy is (1) to regulate authorized pets/service animals on campus in a way that protects the personal safety and health of the VSDB students, faculty, staff, and visitors, and (2) to comply with federal and state law and city ordinances relating to the restriction of animals running at large.

Procedure:

No person may bring an animal onto the VSDB campus, except for:

- a. Service animals, defined as a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the individual's disability prevents using these devices;
- b. Animals that are being used by VSDB staff in the classroom or dormitory as part of a learning experience for VSDB students; and
- c. Pets (only dogs or cats) authorized by VSDB to be in designated areas on campus. Designated areas on campus are comprised of the athletic field(s) and parking lot adjacent to the athletic field(s). Pets permitted onto the VSDB campus in the designated areas must be under the care and control of the owner/handler at all times, and must be restrained by a leash or other appropriate device. Pets authorized to be on the VSDB campus are not permitted to run at large. Pet owners are responsible for cleaning up any messes made by their pet. Anyone who brings a pet on VSDB campus assumes all financial responsibility for any damages to property or injury to individuals caused by the animal.

Enforcement:

1. Any prohibited animal on VSDB campus must be removed immediately.

2. If a prohibited animal is observed on VSDB campus, the owner/handler will be given a verbal warning by VSDB security. Subsequent violations of the policy will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement officials.
3. Sightings of any stray animals on the VSDB campus are to be reported immediately to the VSDB security office. VSDB security personnel will contact the appropriate law enforcement officials to have the animal removed from VSDB campus.
4. The VSDB will seek restitution for any animal-related nuisance or damage to VSDB campus. The repair or replacement cost of damaged property is the sole responsibility of the owner/handler of the animal that caused the damage.
5. VSDB security personnel, VSDB campus police and the City of Staunton law enforcement officials will enforce this policy.

Legal Authority:

Americans with Disabilities Act, Title II & Title III

Code of Virginia § 3.2-6538

Staunton City Code §6-53; § 6-54

<p>Rescission: Effective Date: June 2006; Revised: July 1, 2007; July 2015; May 2016 BOV Approved: December 14, 2016</p>
