

Pet Friendly Housing in Dobson Hall
Overview of Pilot Program
2020-2021

Truman State University has identified clear goals and a strong commitment to increasing enrollment, retention and residence hall occupancy. The opportunity to offer pet-friendly housing in Dobson hall is an initiative aimed at helping students create a sense of home on campus by providing companionship in the form of a pet that may improve student mental health, enhance academic performance, and create an enhanced sense of belonging on campus.

The future of the pet privilege is dependent upon the willingness of students to abide by and enforce the pet friendly hall policy. Current students interested in being around pets who are not currently pet owners may also be encouraged to reside in this designated space.

Students will pay the same housing rate as any other student in a similar occupancy space, with an additional non-refundable pet fee will be charged to the student (\$50/semester for dogs and cats; \$25/semester for all other approved pets.) All pet owners will be required to provide documentation that vaccinations are up to date, the animal has been spayed or neutered (cats and dogs) and is registered or licensed appropriately.

Rationale:

A pet-friendly housing option provides a variety of benefits:

- It creates an enhanced sense of 'home' at Truman.
- Allows Truman to join a relatively small group of colleges and universities across the nation that offer this type of opportunity for students.
- Students' personal and academic success can be positively impacted (mental health, academic skills, social adjustments.)
- Students who feel more comfortable on campus and experience academic success are more likely to persist to graduation.
- Students who choose to reside in the designated facility are able to forgo the formal process for requesting an Emotional Support Animal (ESA), provided the specific type of animal is included on the list of permitted pets.
- Encourages students to continue living on campus.
- Permits partial re-opening of Dobson Hall, which was closed in May, 2019.

Animals on Campus

Service Animals

A “service animal” is a dog or miniature horse individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability. Service animals include, but are not limited to guide dogs for the blind, hearing dogs for the deaf/hard of hearing, and service animals for individuals with physical disabilities and seizure disorders. Service animals/service dogs are not considered “pets” and are generally allowed on campus anywhere it is safe for their presence. However, after consultation with the owner/handler, the University may determine if there are any parameters necessary regarding where a service animal is allowed on campus. Service animals are explicitly permitted under state and federal civil rights laws. The University will require documentation for a service animal consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with a service animal who will be residing on-campus in Residence Life housing will need to complete the [On-Campus Service Animal Agreement](#) and submit the completed form to the Office of Student Access and Disability Services. For more information about Service Animals, please visit Student Access and Disability Services: <http://disabilityservices.truman.edu/>

Therapy Animals

A “therapy animal” is an animal owned by a therapist and selected to play an integral part of a person’s treatment process. A therapy animal is prescribed to an individual with a disability by a healthcare or mental health professional. A therapy animal is not a service animal, and unlike a service animal, a therapy animal does not assist a person with a disability with activities of daily living, nor does it accompany a person with a disability at all times. Therapy animals are not allowed in on-campus housing. For more information about Therapy Animals, please visit Student Access and Disability Services: <http://disabilityservices.truman.edu/>

Emotional Support/Assistance Animals

An “emotional assistance animal” or “emotional support animal” is an animal that is owned by an individual with a disability. Emotional assistance/support animals provide assistance to their owner in relation to a specific diagnosed disability. There must be a clear nexus between assistance provided by the animal and the specific disability of the student. Emotional assistance/support animals are not permitted in non-housing buildings on-campus. Students wishing to bring an emotional assistance/support animal to campus must submit an Emotional Assistance/Support Animal Request Form, all necessary documentation, and be approved. Generally Emotional Support Animals are limited to either a dog or a cat. For more information about Emotional Support Animals, please visit Student Access and Disability Services: <http://disabilityservices.truman.edu/>

Pets

Truman State University will allow residents of designated spaces in Dobson Hall to live with their pets within certain guidelines. Pets are animals other than those defined above, that a resident registers and is granted approval to have with them in their on-campus residence. Pets permitted to live in Dobson Hall include: Cats, Dogs under 40 lbs., Gerbils, Guinea Pigs, Hamsters and Rabbits.

Procedures and Guidelines

INTRODUCTION

Truman State University will allow residents of designated spaces in Dobson Hall to live with their pets within certain guidelines. This is a pilot program to be instituted for the 2020-21 academic year.

PURPOSE

The University Pet Friendly Housing Policy is intended to provide an option for students who wish to have their pet live with them on-campus while enrolled as a student. It is the responsibility of the pet owner to honor the rights of all students as well as the entire campus community. The Pet Friendly Housing Policy provides the guidelines by which this can be accomplished. By bringing a pet to live in Dobson Hall, students acknowledge their understanding of this policy and agree to the identified conditions, as well as penalties that may result from violations of the policy. Every pet owner is encouraged to consider carefully the advantages and disadvantages of the campus environment for their pet, prior to deciding to bring them to campus.

WHAT IS A PET?

The following types of pets are permitted to live with their owners in the designated spaces of Dobson Hall following appropriate approval and registration:

No more than two per Resident

Gerbils
Guinea Pigs
Hamsters

One per Resident

Cat
Dog weighing less than 40 lbs.
Rabbit

Dogs and cats are required to be spayed or neutered, and must have verification they meet the following requirements:

- the animal is at least nine (9) months old; and
- the animal has been under the primary care of the resident or their family for at least three (3) months prior to moving the pet to campus

Fish are currently permitted in any on-campus living unit when kept in an aquarium or tank that is not larger than ten gallons.

No other types of pets are permitted on campus. Consult the [Office of Student Access and Disability Services](#) for information about Service Animals and Emotional Support Animals.

LIMITATIONS

The following breeds of dogs are prohibited: Pit Bull, Rottweiler, German Shepard, and Wolf Hybrids.

Pets must reside with their owner. A student may not "house" a pet for someone else.

The acquisition of any pets, purchased or stray, while an on-campus resident at Truman is prohibited.

This policy prohibits the act of fostering or providing temporary care for a pet that is in transition and waiting for their forever home. Some exceptions may be granted for students who are certified to train service animals.

APPLICATION AND APPROVAL

Students who wish to have a pet-in-residence must submit a completed housing application via the Housing Portal in TruView and complete the pet registration process prior to bringing their pet to campus.

Students requesting to have their pet on-campus must reside in the designated Dobson Hall spaces. Students assigned to other residence facilities on campus are not permitted to have pets.

Pet-in-residence registrations will be processed on a rolling basis as space is available.

Students who submit their application and/or receive approval on their application after they have moved into another residence hall (or apartment) will be required to move to a designated space in Dobson Hall prior to the approved pet arriving on campus.

Failure to receive prior approval and to properly register a pet will constitute a violation of the Residence Life Policy and the student will be subject to student conduct action. All non-approved, non-registered pets must be removed from campus and the student will lose pet privileges for the remainder of the semester.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Pets approved to reside on campus must be registered with the Department of Residence Life. As part of the registration process, the pet owner must read and agree to the guidelines described in the Pet Friendly Housing Manual (provide URL here.) In addition, the following items must be submitted to the Residence Life Office (located in Missouri Hall) at least 2 weeks prior to the pet arriving on campus:

- 1) Residence Hall Pet Agreement signed by pet owner
 - 2) Pet Registration Form signed by pet owner
 - 3) Current photo of the animal
 - 4) Verification the animal is at least nine (9) months old and has been in the primary care of the student/students family for at least three (3) months
 - 5) Verification of appropriate licensing and associated tags
 - 6) Certificate of spay or neuter (for cats and dogs)
 - 7) Current record of vaccinations (for cats and dogs) including rabies and distemper.
- Questions concerning pet vaccination requirements should be directed to Residence Life.

Registration will not be considered complete until all required documentation is on file with the Residence Life Office. Students living in Dobson Hall who are waiting for their pet to meet the

age and family membership criteria to arrive on campus, must complete their pet registration within 3 weeks of the first day of class for the semester or the student may be assigned to a non-pet friendly residence hall space.

Dogs and cats must have an ID tag on at all times that identifies the pet's name and the name and phone number of the owner. It is also encouraged that students have their pet micro chipped prior to living on campus.

It is highly recommended, however not required, that students have liability insurance covering any damages, incidents or accidents in which the pet may be involved. If this coverage has been obtained, please send proof of the coverage along with the registration materials.

Residence Hall Rules Related to Approved Pets:

1. The student/pet owner is responsible for all actions of their pet at all times.
2. Owners must always clean up after their pets. All waste bags must be put in an outside trash receptacle, preferably a dumpster.
3. All pets must be on a visible leash and under the control of their owner when outside the resident's room. Under no circumstances is any pet allowed to run unsupervised outside the room. Electronic collars controlled by remote device do not satisfy this requirement.
4. Pets may not be left on-campus unattended over weekends or break periods.
5. Dogs and cats must wear their identification tag and a current rabies vaccination tag at all times.
6. All required documentation must be on file in the Residence Life Office. Updates to records should be sent to the Residence Life office as soon after the respective change takes place (i.e. vaccinations are updated).
7. All pets must live with their owners.
8. All dogs and cats must be housebroken before arriving on campus.
9. Pets are only allowed inside the designated residence hall (Dobson Hall) – Pets are prohibited in all other buildings on campus.
10. Owners must ensure their pet is not being neglected, harmed or living in filth.
11. No pet is allowed to become a nuisance to the members of the Truman community. A nuisance includes, but is not limited to, excessive noise, physical harm to humans or other animals, destruction of property, etc.

12. Pets that fight, bite, and/or physically attack other animals or humans will not be tolerated.

ENFORCEMENT OF RULES/POLICIES RELATED TO PETS

Residence Life staff members will follow-up on any reports or complaints in regard to the establish rules and regulations. In most cases, Residence Life staff will work informally to resolve complaints/concerns related to pets and pet ownership.

The following types of rule violations will be referred to the Student Conduct process for resolution:

- neglect, mistreatment, and/or unclean living conditions;
- pet has become a nuisance;
- pet that fights, bites and/or physically attacks another animal or a person; and
- consistent and repeated violations of lower level pet policies, including the Quiet Hours Policy (example: barking dogs violate the quiet hours policy).

In addition to sanctions, terms and conditions outlined in the Student Conduct Code, violations of the pet policies could result in one or more of the following:

- removal of pet from campus;
- loss of pet privileges for the remainder of the semester;
- fines for cleaning of the room as necessary; and/or
- restitution for property loss or damage caused by presence of the pet

REMOVAL OF PETS FROM CAMPUS

If Residence Life determines that a pet is to be removed from campus, the pet owner will be notified and has one week to remove the pet from campus. If after one week the pet is still on campus, a \$200 fine will be assessed to the student. Each additional day thereafter will increase the fine by \$25 until the pet's removal. If the pet remains on campus longer than an additional week (2 weeks from the notification of removal), the pet may be removed by Residence Life or their designee and will be taken to the Adair County Humane Society Animal Shelter. Any costs associated with removing of the pet will be billed to the student.