



Animals on Campus Policy

Policy Area	Corporate Affairs
Version	1.0
Date	Created: February 2025 Approved: February 2025 Implemented: February 2025 Revised:
Revision Summary	
Monitored	Annually
Responsibility	Senior Management
Review Date	
This policy document is an uncontrolled copy. Each staff member should consult StaffCONNECT for the latest version of this document.	

Policy

Under Health and Safety legislation Limerick and Clare ETB are committed to the safety of all while on College of FET Campuses.

Purpose

This policy outlines the regulations regarding the presence of animals on Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board College of FET campuses to ensure a safe and inclusive learning environment while complying with Irish legal standards.

Scope

This policy applies to all students, staff (temporary and permanent, whole-time and part-time), visitors, and contractors on Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board College of FET campuses.

1.0 Policy Statement

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board's College of FET recognises the important role that animals can play in the lives of individuals. However, to maintain health, safety, and accessibility on campus, the following regulations apply:

- 1.1 Service Animals:** Only service animals, specifically trained assistance dogs that perform tasks for individuals with disabilities, are permitted on campus. Service animals must be appropriately trained, identifiable, and under control at all times. Handlers may be required to provide evidence of the animal's training and necessity for disability-related assistance.
- 1.2 Emotional Support Animals (ESAs):** Emotional Support Animals, including but not limited to dogs, cats, and small mammals (e.g., rats), do not have legal recognition in Ireland and are not permitted on campus. While the ETB's College of FET acknowledges the emotional benefits ESAs can provide, they do not qualify for special accommodations under Irish law.
- 1.3 Pets:** Pets and other non-service animals are not permitted on campus, except in specific cases approved by college management, such as educational demonstrations or therapy animal sessions arranged through official college programmes.

2.0 Relevant Legislation

This policy is in accordance with:

- 2.1 The Equal Status Acts 2000-2018**, which provide for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities.
- 2.2 The Disability Act 2005**, which supports the rights of persons with disabilities, including the use of assistance dogs.
- 2.3 Health and Safety legislation**, including the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005, to ensure a safe campus environment.

3.0 Exceptions

- 3.1 Exceptions** may be made under special circumstances for approved events or educational activities where animals are required for learning purposes. These must be pre-approved by college management.

4.0 Responsibilities

- 4.1** Individuals bringing a service animal to campus must ensure the animal is under control at all times and does not pose a health or safety risk to others.
- 4.2** The college reserves the right to request verification of a service animal's role and to refuse entry if an animal is deemed disruptive or a risk to health and safety.
- 4.3** Any incidents involving animals on campus should be reported to college administration.

5.0 Enforcement

- 5.1** Failure to comply with this policy may result in individuals being asked to remove the animal from campus. Repeated violations may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with college regulations.

6.0 Review

- 6.1** This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and best practices.

For any queries or requests regarding this policy, please contact the Provision Coordinator.