

ANIMALS ON CAMPUS

Butler County Community College strives to maintain a safe, secure, accessible and welcoming environment for student, faculty, staff and visitors at all BC3 sites and locations. This policy applies to all students, employees, and visitors to Main Campus and/or any site owned and/or leased by Butler County Community College and outlines the requirements for accessibility, behavior, and treatment of animals.

1. All animals on College property, including open space, athletic fields, playing fields and intramural areas, must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered and under personal control of the owner at all times. Animals are not to be tied to or secured to trees, posts, shrubs and/or left unattended. Each owner is responsible for his/her animal, including clean-up.
2. To protect public health and safety, animals are not permitted in College buildings, subject to the following exceptions:
 - a. A service animal assisting an individual with a disability;
 - i. The service animal must be under the control of its handler at all times. If it is not readily apparent what service an animal provides, the College may ask if the animal is required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to perform;
 - ii. The College may exclude a service animal if the animal poses a direct threat to the health, safety or property of others that cannot be reduced or eliminated by a reasonable accommodation; is out of control and the individual does not take effective action to control it; would disrupt the academic environment or pose a hazard to others; or is not being cared for the by the individual;
 - iii. The College is not responsible for the care or supervision of service animals. Individuals handling a service animal are responsible for the control of their animals at all times and for ensuring the immediate clean-up and proper disposal of all animal waste. Individuals must comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including vaccination, licensure, animal health and leash laws;
 - iv. The College may impose charges for damages caused by a service animal in the same manner the College imposes charges for damages to property.
 - b. Animals used as part of an academic, or college sponsored, program subject to prior approval by the Executive Director of Human Resources/Equal Opportunity Compliance Officer and the Vice President for Academic Affairs.
3. Emotional support animals are not allowed on campus without prior approval. If an individual has a diagnosis that is included in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or Title II of the American with Disabilities Act, then the support animal will be considered in the request for accommodations that is coordinated by the Coordinator of Access and Disability Resources or the Executive Director of Human Resources/Equal Opportunity Compliance Officer, whichever is applicable. Students must follow the accommodation request process.
4. All animals on Main Campus and/or any site owned and/or leased by Butler County Community College must have current vaccinations evidenced by a tag on the animal or a vaccination certificate in the immediate possession of the owner.
5. A control agency will be called to remove and impound disruptive, aggressive, unattended or at-large animals. All animals are subject to the Butler County Community College Ordinance No. 1 and applicable county and/or township codes regulating animals.

Complaints regarding a service animal belonging to a student and its behavior should be directed to the Dean of Student Development, who will contact the handler to review the policies regarding service animals and address the complaint. If the animal belongs to an employee of the College, concerns should be directed to the Executive Director of Human Resources/Equal Opportunity Compliance Officer.

Students with allergic reactions to animals that rise to the level of a disability are encouraged to notify the Coordinator of Access and Disability Resources to request accommodations. Employees are encouraged to contact the Executive Director of Human Resources/Equal Opportunity Compliance Officer. The College will review the needs of both parties involved, on a case-by-case basis, in meeting its obligation to reasonably accommodate all disabilities and resolve the issue as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Service Dogs in Training: Under Pennsylvania law, individuals with disabilities who use guide or support animals, or trainers of such animals, are entitled to equal opportunity in all aspects of employment and education, as well as equal access to and treatment in all public accommodations, and any housing accommodation or commercial property without discrimination. Violation of this law may result in an award of damages or other remedies pursuant to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. 43 P.S. § 953.

Definitions:

Service Animal: A “service animal” is one 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 and the work or tasks performed by the animal are directly related to the individual’s disability. This definition encompasses all “service animals” as defined by the applicable regulations to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Domestic Animal: Domestic animals are those species of animals that normally and customarily share human habitat and are normally dependent on humans for food and shelter. Service Animals are not considered domestic animals for the purpose of this Policy.

Emotional Support Animal: Emotional support animals provide companionship, comfort and emotional support and are not defined as a “service animal.” These functions are not considered work or tasks performed to benefit an individual with a disability. These animals are generally not trained and are not afforded the legal protection of “service animals” under the ADA.