



## Ohio Wesleyan University Residential Life Pet Policy 2007-2008

### Residence Halls:

Delaware City-County Board of Health animal control regulation supersedes Ohio Wesleyan University's pet policy, questions or concerns should be referred to Delaware General Health District. According to animal control regulation, no person shall be permitted to harbor, feed or market wild animals native to the State of Ohio or other type of wild, feral, or dangerous animals, including exotic animals not native to the State of Ohio.

Due to health and sanitation issues and the possibility of other residents' allergic reactions, pets are not permitted to be kept, fed, or harbored in the residence halls. These issues may interfere with a student's right to a clean environment conducive to study.

Animals are not permitted in public areas of residence halls. The housing of cats, dogs, rabbits, ferrets, snakes, and other illegal animals in the residence halls is prohibited. The only pets permitted are fish and one of the following animals per student: **gerbils, hamsters, guinea pigs, mice, and rats**. These small, caged, nonpoisonous animals and fish are permitted in the student's room if:

- A. The student completes and submits the pet registration form
- B. The student gains advance approval from the Residential Life Office
- C. The student gains advance approval from his/her roommates before the pet arrives on campus. ***A roommate's request to live in a pet free environment supersedes the right of the student to have a pet in his/her room.***

Water-filled aquariums of no more than 10-gallon capacity may be maintained for **fish, snails, and crustaceans** (turtles, amphibians, other reptiles, and other aquarium dwelling animals are not permitted.) All animals, including fish, will be taken home over semester breaks. The University will not be held responsible for the safety of fish or any animal in the event of electrical power failures.

The housing of cats, dogs, rabbits, ferrets, snakes, and other illegal animals in the residence halls are prohibited.

All pets found in student housing which violate this policy will be immediately removed or confiscated and moved to a local shelter or the Humane Society. Students will be charged a \$50 fine for violation of this policy and charged for any damages to the facility. Residential Life reserves the right to determine if an animal is appropriate.

### Small Living Units and Fraternity Houses:

The newborn of any animal must be removed from the living unit or fraternity house within a relatively short period. When outside of the building, dogs must be on a leash and accompanied by the owner at all times. No dogs or cats will be permitted in any academic building or residence hall.

### Small Living Units

A student of a small living unit may harbor small, caged animals and fish if the student gains advance approval from all other students who live in the small living unit. **A roommate's request to live in a pet free environment supersedes the right of the student to have a pet in his/her room.** If necessary, the Moderator of the small living unit will have the authority to reverse the decision the house makes. Advance approval for all pets must be gained from the Residential Life office. The types of pets permitted in residence halls are also permitted in small living units. In addition, a total of two rabbits or birds and a total of two cats or dogs will be allowed providing a maximum of four animals per living unit.

### Fraternity Houses

The types of pets permitted in residence halls are also permitted in fraternity houses. Advance approval for pets can be gained from the Residential Life Office. In addition, a total of two cats or dogs will be allowed providing a maximum of two animals per fraternity house.

### Animal Bite Reporting Procedure

If an animal that is housed in a residential facility becomes disruptive, bites or displays intimidating behavior (i.e. lunges, growls or barks uncontrollably) the University reserves the right to remove the animal from university property. The Residential Life office and/or Public Safety can enforce immediate removal of the animal from the residential facility. Any costs incurred for removal of the animal or kenneling will be the responsibility of the pet's registered owner.

According to the Ohio Administrative Code section 3701-3-02 it is required that all animal bites are to be reported to the local health department. The animal must be quarantined in an animal shelter for 10 days from the date of the bite. The animal must stay confined at the shelter for the entire quarantine period. The owner will be charged the kennel fee. The animal will not be released until permission is given by the health department, and is currently up to date on rabies vaccination.