



Procedure Number: **OPS - 033**

Procedure: Animals on Campus

References: [Missoula City Ordinance](#) Number 6.08; [MCA](#) 49-4-211, 49-4-214

Approved By: Kenneth A. Willett, Director for Office of Public Safety

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## **PROCEDURE**

With the exception of “guide,” “hearing,” or “service” dogs accompanying people with disabilities; dogs are not permitted in any University building.

Other than “guide,” “hearing,” or “service” dogs, dogs are not permitted at any public gathering, be it indoors or outdoors on University property.

Any owner or handler who brings an animal, other than a “guide,” “hearing,” or “service” dog, on campus will be required to keep the animal on a six (6) foot or shorter leash and must maintain personal, physical control of the animal at all times. Owners or handlers are not to leave the animal(s) unattended. (Missoula City Ordinance Number 6.08.010, Paragraph “H”).

The owner or handler of an animal shall be responsible for the immediate removal of any excreta deposited by his/her animal(s) on any University property, public walk, park, boulevard, recreation area or other public right-of-way. (Missoula City Ordinance Number 6.08.150). Exception: “Guide,” “hearing,” or “service” dogs are exempt from this section.

Owners or handlers of dogs or other animals brought onto the University campus will be responsible for complete compliance with the intent of Missoula City Ordinance Number 6.08, Sections 010 through 270.

## **IMPLEMENTATION:**

All dog bites are to be immediately reported to the Office of Public Safety. That office will notify the City Health Officer and the City/County Animal Control. (Missoula City Ordinance Number 6.08.010, Paragraph “D”).

Persons permitting their dogs to “run at large” on The University of Montana campus may be issued citations requiring their appearance in court. Public Safety Officers or the City/County Animal Control Officers may issue citations.

Animals picked up by the University Public Safety Officers or the City/County Animal Control Officers will be impounded and disposed of in accordance with the established Missoula City Ordinance.

Persons engaged in the training of “guide”, “hearing”, or “service” dogs will be granted status equal to a person with a disability. Exceptions: all such individuals will be required to provide the following information to the Office of Public Safety:

1. Name of Trainer
2. Telephone Number
3. Business Name, Address and Telephone Number
4. Primary location of on campus training

While on campus all service dogs in training will be required to display visual proof that the animal is in training, in accordance with MCA 49-4-214. Violation of this may result in the animal’s removal from campus. Additionally, civil or criminal procedures may be taken against the owner/trainer.

Any service dog in training that reflects a history of disruptive or vicious behavior will be removed from campus. Documentation of incident(s) will be required and the owner/trainer will be notified in writing.

## **BACKGROUND**

The number of animals, predominately dogs, roaming the campus has markedly increased the past few years. Animals allowed to run loose are a critical problem for persons with disabilities, particularly those with “guide,” “hearing,” or “service” dogs. The number of persons bitten has increased at an alarming rate and animal waste is a growing problem.

The Missoula City/County Animal Control Officers and The University of Montana Office of Public Safety have the responsibility to enforce (Missoula City Ordinance Number 6.08). This particular ordinance deals with the keeping, harboring, or owning a dog or other animal within the City limits. In addition, Montana Codes Annotated 49-4-211 and 49-4-214 were enacted to provide accessibility for the use and training of service dogs in public places.