Animals in College Facilities and on College Grounds

Policy Issued: October 2011

RATIONALE: This Policy is intended to enhance the safety and health of faculty, students, staff, contractors, vendors and other visitors, by providing rules and restrictions regarding the presence of animals in Hope College (“College”) facilities.

POLICY: No person shall bring any animal(s) into a College Facility unless otherwise permitted by this Policy.

SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY: This Policy applies to all College faculty, students, staff, contractors, vendors and visitors.

DEFINITIONS:

“Service Animals” means “service animals” as that term is defined in 28 CFR § 36.104, as it may be amended from time-to-time. Generally speaking, service animals include any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items.

“College facility” means any building, facility, structure or improvement, open or enclosed, that is owned, licensed, leased by, or under the control of, the College.

PROCEDURES: No person shall bring any animal(s) into a College facility except as follows; provided, however, that any such animal brought into a College facility is properly licensed, vaccinated and tagged as required by applicable law:

A. Service animals while they are assisting individuals with a “disability”, as defined in 28 CFR § 35.104 as it may be amended from time-to-time, unless the service animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others or the presence of the service animal will result in a fundamental alteration of the services, programs or activities with a College facility or an area of such a College facility. Individuals with a disability who wish to bring a service animal into a College facility must contact the Office of Disability Services;
B. Animals under the control of a law enforcement officer acting in the course of his or her duties;

C. Animals approved by the College for use in research or for instructional purposes are permitted in accordance with the policies of the Animal Care and Use Committee;

D. Animals kept in family housing as approved by appropriate departments;

E. Animals required for an event sponsored by the College or a student organization; provided, however, that the event has been approved in writing by the vice-president for the sponsoring department, or by the Vice President and Dean of Students in the case of a student organization.

Individual Responsibilities: An individual who brings an animal into a College facility or onto College grounds as permitted by this Policy is solely responsible for: (i) the full control, supervision and care of the animal; (ii) ensuring that the animal does not urinate or defecate in any College facility; (iii) cleaning and removing any urine from a College facility or feces from a College facility or College grounds; (iv) reimbursing the College for any costs associated with the repair of any real and/or personal property and/or College facility damaged directly or indirectly by the animal or the animal’s presence in a College facility; (v) complying with all other applicable College ordinances, policies, practices and procedures; and (vi) complying with any applicable local, state or federal ordinances, statutes and regulations.

Reporting Violations of this Policy: Violations of this Policy, and animals that are threatening other animals or humans, should be reported to the Campus Safety Department at (616) 395-7770.

Violations of this Policy: In addition to removal of animals as provided in this Policy, any violation of this Policy by: (i) any College faculty, staff or other employee may result in discipline up to and including termination of employment; (ii) any College student may result in discipline up to and including expulsion; and (iii) any other person may result in the person being prohibited entering any College facility and/or entering upon the College’s campus. Persons violating this Policy may also be subject to civil and/or criminal penalties as provided for in any applicable College policy or ordinance and/or any local, state or federal laws or regulations.

Assistance: Please contact the Office of Occupational Health and Fire Safety at (616) 395-7999 for assistance in interpreting this Policy.