

North Carolina Wesleyan College

Guidelines for Dogs on Campus

It is the policy of North Carolina Wesleyan College to provide a safe, non-threatening and healthy campus environment for our faculty, staff, students, vendors and guests. To establish a tradition of being a dog-friendly campus, while at the same time recognizing that allowing dogs on campus can create certain challenges, the following guidelines are adopted to effectuate a balanced approach to establishing a dog-friendly campus. These guidelines are intended to respond to concerns of health (especially allergies), fear and safety regarding dogs on campus.

I. Dog-Owner General Campus Guidelines

- All dogs in compliance with this policy may be allowed on campus for occasional short visits in the company of the owner in “dog-friendly” areas, defined as the outer walking trail and sidewalks around campus. Any indoor areas or athletic fields are not considered dog-friendly unless outlined in the subsequent sections based on the category of the dog.
- Dogs are to be under the control of their owners at all times. Dogs should be leashed (standard six feet in length or otherwise appropriately restrained or caged) unless leashing directly impedes a service dog’s ability to perform its trained task(s).
- All dogs must be healthy and pose no reasonable health risk to humans as carriers of active infections, parasites, etc. Dog owners must comply with all state of NC and local laws and ordinances governing licensing, vaccinations, and control, and must provide proof of compliance upon request. All dogs should have their vaccine ID tag visible or a copy of recent vaccine records should be carried with the owner while on campus with the canine(s).
- Dogs must be on a flea and tick program. The owner must decide the best type of flea and tick program for their dog and arrange for such treatment at their own expense. Dog owners must also provide proof of flea prevention, upon request.
- Owners should be aware of their dog’s behavior and considerate of others. Excessive noise, barking or other disruptive behavior is not permitted, and may result in the dog not being permitted on campus until able to meet acceptable standards of behavior. Owners may be asked to remove the dog from events or campus for behavioral issues.
- Owners are personally responsible for any damage the dog causes to College property and for any injuries or illnesses caused by their dog.
- It is the owner’s responsibility to ensure that their dog’s waste is properly cleaned up and disposed of.
- North Carolina Wesleyan College, at its sole discretion, except as required by law, retains the right to deny access to any canine.

II. Service Dogs

In order to ensure access for individuals with disabilities, service dogs are permitted on the premises per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. ADA compliance as it relates to students is to be coordinated through the ADA Coordinator. All faculty and staff inquiries can be directed to the Office of Human Resources. Service dogs have access to all buildings and facilities, unless they are behaving inappropriately, are not house broken or if such access poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others and that threat cannot be eliminated or reduced by reasonable modification to other policies and practices. Appropriate alternative accommodations will be made to provide the individual with access if the dog is unable to accompany. For example, a lab course may require a sterile/clean working environment, and the presence of the service dog may directly impact the ability to maintain a sterile/clean working environment. According to the ADA, fear of dogs or allergies do not constitute a “direct threat” and cannot be grounds for denying access to a service dog.

III. Reporting Concerns

Any dog incident that involves physical harm must be immediately reported to Campus Security. The Director of Campus Safety or designee has the authority to suspend the dog’s on-campus privilege, pending investigation of any such incident, and will also notify the Office of Human Resources (Rocky Mount Campus) of any injury. When appropriate, Campus Security may also contact Animal Control to assist in the handling of dog incidents. Any case involving an animal bite that results in an injury to any person will be reported to the local Police Department, if required under City or County Ordinance.

It is the goal of the College to encourage any individual who is uncomfortable with a particular dog to be certain that his/her needs or feelings are communicated appropriately. Whenever reasonable, these issues should be discussed with the dog owner or reported to Campus Security. If involving an employee, it should be communicated to the Office of Human Resources.

Any student in violation of this policy may be subject to procedures within the North Carolina Wesleyan College Code of Conduct Standards.