



## **OFFICE PET POLICY**

*Counseling Center for Sexual Health* is responsible for assuring the health and safety of all employees and patients. In keeping with this objective, *Counseling Center for Sexual Health* has formulated a policy balancing these concerns with the desire to promote a positive experience by allowing appropriate pets in the office. A pet may be allowed in the office if its health and behavior are acceptable within an office setting, and if it does not adversely affect office operations.

A pet owner wishing to bring a pet to the office should first obtain permission from his or her therapist. Any decision to allow a pet to come to the office, or to exclude a pet from the office, will be made by the therapist. If a pet is permitted to enter the office, the therapist reserves the right to revoke this privilege at *any* time. That decision will be final, except in cases involving service animals, which should be addressed with the individual therapist.

A patient who requires the help of a service animal (defined by 28 CFR 36.104 as "any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability") will be permitted to bring a service animal to the office, provided that the animal's presence does not create a danger to others and does not impose an undue hardship upon the company.

**The privilege of bringing a pet to therapy is subordinate to the health, safety, and comfort of persons who may come into contact with animals at the office.**

An animal may be *excluded* from the office if it:

- causes any person to experience allergic reactions, fear, or any other physical or psychological discomfort;
- distracts the therapist or patient from their work; or
- reduces the therapist or patient's productivity or quality of work.

Any individual with a grievance regarding an animal at the office should bring the matter to the attention of the Clinical Director, Jackson Sousa.

In addition, the following animals may *not* be brought to the workplace:

- sick animals;
- animals with fleas or any disease that is communicable to other animals in the office or to humans;
- animals that have not been properly vaccinated, or that have internal or external parasites;
- dogs that bark or behave aggressively; or
- animals that foul the inside or outside of the building.



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Animals that have not been spayed or neutered will not be permitted to come to the office in season. All dogs must be leashed at all times. All animals must be in the continuous full control of their owners. They should be in the physical presence of the owner at all times. Owners are expected to clean up, completely and immediately, after their animals, both inside and outside the premise of the office using appropriate clean-up and disinfectant measures. Owner must keep a supply of plastic bags with ties at all times and is responsible for the appropriate disposal of dog waste outside of the office.

A patient who brings an animal to the office is completely and solely liable for any injuries or any damage to personal property caused by the animal. Any repair or cleaning/maintenance costs incurred by an animal will be charged in full to the owner. The repair or cleaning/maintenance provider will be chosen by *Counseling Center for Sexual Health* and the payment from owner will be charged in full immediately.

*Counseling Center for Sexual Health* may, at its discretion, require animal owner to maintain a liability insurance policy covering damage or injuries caused by the animal while at the office. The company may specify minimum coverage amounts under such a policy, and may require the owner to pay for such coverage. *Counseling Center for Sexual Health* shall not be liable for loss of, or injury to, any animal brought to the office.

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PATIENT SIGNATURE

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DATE

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THERAPIST SIGNATURE

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DATE



## **WAIVER OF LIABILITY:**

In consideration of being permitted to bring ones dog to the *Counseling Center for Sexual Health*, the dog owner does hereby unconditionally releases, indemnifies, waives, discharges and agrees to hold harmless *Counseling Center for Sexual Health* staff or guests from any loss, damage, liability and expense, including court costs and attorney fees, that may be incurred as a result of injuries, including death to persons or dogs, or damage to property, directly or indirectly associated with the owner bringing his/her dog to *Counseling Center for Sexual Health*, whether caused by the negligence of other staff, or guests, or otherwise.

BY SIGNING THIS AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE, THE DOG OWNER EXPRESSLY ACKNOWLEDGES AND REPRESENTS that he/she has carefully read the foregoing terms and conditions, understands the contents thereof and signs voluntarily; he/she is at least eighteen (18) years of age and fully competent; and executes this Authorization and Release intending that he/she, his/her spouse and family members, and his/her heirs, assigns and personal representatives if deceased, be legally bound by same.

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PATIENT SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

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THERAPIST SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE