

**POLICY****ANIMALS ON CAMPUS**

Ridgewater College is committed to providing its employees, students and visitors with a healthy and respectful environment in which to work and study. Recognizing animals may cause a nuisance, have the potential to be a safety hazard, can be unpredictable, have uncontrollable behavior and may contribute to accidents in the workplace, with the exception of those animals that are specifically exempted by this document, animals are not allowed on college property or in college vehicles.

Exempted Animals:

The following animals are permitted:

- Service animals while performing their duties (as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act 28 C.F.R. 36.302).
- On-duty police dogs.
- Animals used for instructional purposes of the college (i.e. Vet Tech, Biology, Ag) or for special events or demonstrations.

Exemptions must be approved through the supervising administrator.

When exemptions are made, pets (dogs, cats, etc.) that are allowed on campus must be on a leash under the direct and positive control of the individuals responsible for the pet. Such individuals will be liable for any accident or damage caused by the pet while on campus.

Due to the risk of injury from animals to persons on campus, owners of non-exempt animals found on campus will be asked to remove them immediately. If an unrestrained animal is sighted on campus, the local authorities may be called to come and pick up the animal for impound. The presence of any animal, wild or domestic, in an unattended motor vehicle without proper food, water, or ventilation, or that is subjected to extreme temperatures that could affect its health or safety, or that is creating a public nuisance, may also be reported to the local authorities. When appropriate, other disciplinary measures may be invoked.

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*History:*

*05.19.09 Adopted*