

St. Mary's College of Maryland Policy on Pets and Other Animals

Pets/Animals in Buildings

Due to health and safety concerns, pets and other animals are not permitted in any College building. This policy applies to all students and all (administrative, faculty, and staff) employees of the College. However, students are allowed to house non-meat-eating fish and non-venomous reptiles in closed aquariums within their personal rooms in the College's residence halls.

Visiting Pets

Students and employees should exercise common and professional courtesy in bringing pets to campus to visit. "Visiting pets" are not allowed inside College buildings. Owners are responsible for the clean-up of any mess left on the College campus by these pets. Students and employees should make their visitors aware of the policy to prevent misunderstandings for visitors who may wish to bring their pets to campus.

Service Animals

Service animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are permitted on campus. A service animal is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Persons bringing service animals onto the College campus should contact the College's ADA Coordinator for assistance and further guidance. The ADA Coordinator can be reached at 240-895-3002. The ADA Coordinator is located on the second floor of Glendening Hall in the Office of Accessibility Services.

Emotional Support Animals

Emotional Support Animals (ESAs) are not considered service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and are not permitted in College buildings except as approved as a reasonable accommodation. An Emotional Support Animal is an animal selected for an individual with a disability by a healthcare or mental health professional to play a significant role in the individual's treatment process. ESAs do not assist with activities of daily living and do not accompany individuals at all times. Students requesting to have an Emotional Support Animal on campus must receive approval through the College's Office of Accessibility Services and must register the approved animal with the Office of Residence Life prior to bringing the animal to campus. Depending on the circumstances, requests may be reviewed by the Housing Accommodations Committee and/or in consultation with the Office of Residence Life before a determination is made.