

A. EFFECTIVE DATE :	March 27, 2017
B. PURPOSE :	To provide rules concerning the presence of animals in UConn Health clinical practice and patient care areas.
C. POLICY :	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The University welcomes the presence of service animals assisting people with disabilities on its campuses consistent with the provisions of this policy and applicable law. A service animal is generally permitted to be on University property in any place where the animal’s handler is permitted to be. In certain limited situations, a service animal may be prohibited for safety and health reasons. 2. Members of the University community are prohibited from interfering in any way with a service animal or the duties it performs. 3. In certain limited situations, UConn Health allows for the presence of emotional support animals and pets in its clinical practice and patient care areas. 4. These procedures fall under the University policy – Animals on Campus.
D. SCOPE :	Clinical practice and patient care areas at UConn Health including John Dempsey Hospital (JDH), University Medical Group (UMG) and UConn Health Dental Practices.
E. DEFINITIONS :	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Service Animal – Any dog specifically trained to perform a task for the benefit of an individual with a disability. In some circumstances, a miniature horse may be considered a service animal. The tasks performed by a service animal must directly relate to the individual’s disability. 2. Service Animal in Training - A dog that is being trained as a service animal and includes a puppy that is being raised to become a service animal in training. 3. Handler - An individual with a disability who is the owner and user, or trainer of a service animal or ESA, or the owner or individual bringing an animal onto University property. 4. Restricted Clinical Area – Area where the presence of an animal could compromise patient safety. Examples include sterile environments such as the operating rooms, procedures areas, or other areas that require a protected environment. 5. Emotional Support Animal (ESA) - Any animal specifically designated by a qualified medical provider that alleviates one or more identified symptoms of an individual’s disability. Such animal may afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling, workplace, or other area, provided there is a nexus between the individual’s disability and the assistance the animal provides. ESA’s are also commonly known as companion, therapeutic or assistance

	<p>animals. ESA's are not service animals.</p> <p>6. Pet - Any animal that is not a service animal or ESA.</p>
<p>F. PROCEDURE :</p>	<p>1. Service Animals Patients and visitors are allowed to bring service animals to all non-restricted areas without advance approval or authorization. In some cases, service animals may be allowed to accompany patients to restricted areas, with prior authorization from the appropriate medical staff (i.e. Nursing Manager in consultation with Infection Prevention Specialist).</p> <p>When it is not obvious what service an animal provides, only limited inquiries are allowed. UConn Health staff may ask only the following two questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the dog (or miniature horse) a service animal required because of a disability? 2. What work or task has the animal been trained to perform? <p>Staff cannot ask about the person's disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card or training documentation for the dog, or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.</p> <p>Allergies and fear of dogs (or other service animals) are not valid reasons for denying access or refusing service to people using service animals.</p> <p>2. Service Animals in Training Service animals in training are allowed <u>only</u> in non-restricted areas open to members of the public. They are never allowed in restricted areas or areas not open to members of the public.</p> <p>3. Emotional Support Animals Emotional support animals are allowed to accompany patients in non-restricted areas only with advance approval of the appropriate medical staff (i.e. Nursing Manager). Emotional support animals are generally not allowed in restricted areas unless given prior authorization from the appropriate medical staff (i.e. Nursing Manager in consultation with Infection Prevention Specialist).</p> <p>4. Inpatient Visits by Animals (Pets) at JDH In determining whether an animal may be allowed to visit an inpatient at John Dempsey Hospital, the Nursing Manager shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine the appropriateness of a request for a pet visitation. 2. Contact the Infection Prevention Specialist for prior approval. 3. Determine if the following criteria for a pet visit have been met: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Patient is in a single room. b. Proof (tag/certificate) of current immunization (rabies required)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Pet must be leashed and under visitor control while in patients room; d. Visitor must be able to stay with the pet at all times, maintain control, and be responsible for the elimination and/or clean-up of accidents while on Hospital premises. <p>4. Meet the animal in the front lobby and escort them directly to the patient. (This may also be done by a designee).</p> <p>5. General Rules Regarding All Animals at UConn Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Handlers (or their designee) must have full control of the animal at all times. b. The University reserves the right to remove animals under certain circumstances including if the animal is disruptive, poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others or the presence of the animal compromises a sterile environment. c. UConn Health staff are not responsible for providing care or food/water for the animal or a special location for the animal to relieve itself. If a Handler cannot provide care for an animal, the handler must make arrangements for such care.
<p>G. ATTACHMENTS :</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Link to the full University policy – Animals on Campus 2. Link to the Animals on Campus FAQ 3. Office of Institutional Equity. Contact (860) 679-3563 or email equity@uconn.edu
<p>H. STAKEHOLDER(S) :</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vice President, UMG 2. Chief Executive Officer, JDH 3. Sr. Associate Dean for Education & Patient Care
<p>I. REFERENCES :</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Americans with Disabilities Act 42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq. 2. Connecticut State Law C.G.S. § 46a-44
<p>J. SEARCH WORDS :</p>	<p>Animal, service animal, service animal in training, therapy animal, emotional support animal, pets, pet visitation, Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, disabilities, disability</p>
<p>K. REVIEWED BY :</p>	<p>Elizabeth Conklin (Signed) 6/30/17</p> <p>1. _____ Elizabeth Conklin Date Associate VP, Institutional Equity</p> <p>Anne Horbatuck (Signed) 7/18/17</p> <p>2. _____ Anne Horbatuck Date Vice President, UMG</p> <p>Anne Diamond (Signed) 7/7/17</p> <p>3. _____ Anne Diamond Date Chief Executive Officer, JDH</p>

	<p>Steven Lepowsky (Signed) 7/26/17</p> <p>4. _____ Steven Lepowsky, D.D.S. Date Sr. Associate Dean for Education & Patient Care Associate Professor & Chair, Division of General Dentistry</p> <p>Iris Mauriello (Signed) 6/21/17</p> <p>5. _____ Iris Mauriello Date Compliance Integrity & Privacy Officer</p>
L. APPROVED BY :	<p>Andrew Agwunobi (Signed) 7/28/17</p> <p>1. _____ Andrew Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A. Date Chief Executive Officer Executive Vice President for Health Affairs</p>
M. REVISION HISTORY :	<p>1. New Policy 3/27/17</p> <p>2. Replaces Policies JDH 11-023 and UMG/JDH Ambulatory Services Re: Service Animals in the Practice Locations</p>

[[END OF POLICY](#)]