

A. POLICY STATEMENT

For more than 10 years, Stephens College has been welcoming dogs, cats, birds, and other pets to campus. Today, Stephens is considered one of the most pet-friendly campuses in the country. Multiple residence halls at Stephens College have designated pet floors and some are entirely pet-friendly. However, no pets are permitted on the pet-free or on non-pet floors of Residence halls, with the exception of fish in tanks or aquariums. Pets are prohibited in other areas of the College (e.g., academic buildings, classrooms, library, etc.).

B. PURPOSE

While Stephens College is considered one of the most pet-friendly campus in the U.S., the College must recognize the issues impacting all of its student body. For many reasons, including, but not limited to, allergies and phobias, there are therefore some residence halls which are entirely pet-free and also some floors in others which are also pet-free.

C. SCOPE

Stephens College students living in residence halls.

D. ALLOWABLE AND PROHIBITED PETS**Pets Allowed Under This Policy:**

1. Dogs:
 - a. Must be a minimum of six (6) months old and neutered or spayed. No exceptions will be made.
 - b. Must be housebroken.
 - c. Must be current on all vaccinations, including, but not limited to, DHLPP, rabies, and Bordetella; heartworm tested; current on flea/tick preventatives;
 - d. Must be registered with the City of Columbia and must wear tags.
2. Cats:
 - a. Must be a minimum of six (6) months old and neutered or spayed. No exceptions will be made.
 - b. Must be litter box trained;
 - c. Must be current on all vaccinations, including, but not limited to, FVRCP, rabies, FeLV/FIV negative; current on flea/tick preventatives;
 - d. Must be registered with the City of Columbia and must wear tags.
3. Rabbits, hamsters, rats, mice, gerbils sugar gliders, and guinea pigs:
 - a. Must be kept in a cage, aquarium, or other appropriate housing when student is not in the room.
4. Birds:
 - a. Must be kept in a cage, or other appropriate housing when student is not in the room.

Prohibited Pets and Other Items:

1. Dogs: The following dog breeds or any derivative/mixes thereof **are prohibited**:
 - a. Pit Bull
 - b. Rottweiler

- c. German Shepherd
 - d. Chow
 - e. Akita
 - f. Wolf breeds
 - g. Any mix containing these*; or
 - h. Any aggressive breed.
2. Snakes;
 3. Spiders;
 4. Livestock or farm animals;
 5. A wet aquarium should not exceed 40 gallons;
 6. Owners are **not permitted** to breed any animal or small pet for food or other purposes.

*In the cases of mixed breeds, students may send a description and photograph of the dog to the Department of Residence Life. These pets will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

NOTE: The College reserves the right to refuse admittance to any pet regardless of type or breed for any reason if the administration deems that the pet may not be an appropriate fit for the college.

E. DESIGNATED RESIDENCE HALLS

Designated residence halls with Pet Floors: Pillsbury, Searcy, Prunty, Roblee, and Tower.
Residence halls with Pet-free floors: Pillsbury
Pet-free Residence halls: Columbia and Wood

F. EXCEPTIONS

Exceptions to the policy include Service Animals as indicated in Stephens College Policy 2.3.15. In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, Stephens College allows Partners/Handlers to bring Service Animals into residence halls and they may be allowed on pet floors. Service Animals are considered working animals, not pets.

G. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR A PET/PET IN RESIDENCE HALL

1. Only one full-time pet is allowed per student (including foster pets and approved ESA/Service animals).
2. **Pet registration and pet fees are due to Residence Life prior to the arrival of the pet on campus.**
3. Pets are allowed in pet-friendly resident's rooms only, not in the common areas.
4. The owner must maintain control of the animal at all times within the Residence Hall. Pets are not allowed to roam free in a dormitory room while their owner is in class; they must be crated, caged or kept in other appropriate housing.
5. Owners are responsible for any damage or injuries caused by their pets and must take appropriate precautions to prevent property damage or injury. This includes property damage and injuries caused by the owner's pets to their own property or pets or to other students' property or pets.

6. All pets must be on a leash or in a carrier when outside owner's room or when walked on campus property.
7. The owner should ensure that the pet does not display aggressive behavior.
8. Owner negligence or mistreatment of a pet will not be tolerated. Any case of neglect or mistreatment will be directed to the Office of Student Development for conduct action.
9. To the extent possible, the pet should be unobtrusive to other students. The owner should ensure that the pet does not display behaviors or make noises that are disruptive or frightening to others. Students with noisy pets will be given a three week grace period at the beginning of the semester to get their pet adjusted to life in the residence halls. If at the end of the three week grace period the pet is still causing disruption to the living community the following steps will be taken:
 - a. Verbal warning
 - b. Written warning
 - c. Removal of pet

H. CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF A PET

1. The care and supervision of the pet is the responsibility of the owner. The cost of care, arrangements and responsibilities for the well-being of the pet are the sole responsibility of the owner at all times.
2. The owner is solely responsible for cleaning up after the pet. (See Sanctions below)
3. Pets that are ill or in poor health should not be taken into public areas.
4. Abandonment, neglect and mistreatment of any pet by any member of Stephens College will not be tolerated. No warnings will be issued. In the case of abuse, the pet will be removed from the situation in order to prevent contact with the person(s) responsible for the abuse. (See Sanctions below)

I. PROCEDURES

If the student lives on a pet eligible floor and elects to bring a pet to campus for a period of time, the following must be completed before a pet is allowed to stay on campus in a residence hall:

1. A Pet Floor Program Agreement that includes; pet information sheet, veterinary documentation, recent picture, City of Columbia Registration and a non-refundable pet fee.
2. This agreement, along with a list of approved pets can be picked up from the resident director of the student's hall or at the Residence Life office.

NOTE: Pets staying/visiting on campus for three days (maximum) or less are not subject to the pet fee, but all other documentation is required prior to the pet staying in the residence hall.

NOTE: Each student is limited to one visiting/guest pet at a time.

NOTE: Stray or wild animals on campus should not be fed; they may be infected with diseases and pose a health and safety hazard.

J. REMOVAL OF A PET

Pets may be removed from residence halls for the following reasons:

1. **An Out of Control Pet:** An owner may be directed to remove a pet if it is out of control, and the owner does not take effective action to control it. If the out-of-control behavior happens repeatedly, the owner may be prohibited from bringing the animal onto campus until the owner can demonstrate that he/she has taken significant steps to mitigate the behavior.
2. **Non-Housebroken Pet:** An owner may be directed to remove a pet that is not housebroken or one where waste products are not disposed of appropriately.
3. **Direct Threat:** An owner may be directed to remove a pet that the College determines to be a substantial and direct threat to the health and safety of individuals. This may occur as a result of a pet exhibiting aggressive behavior, or a substantial lack of cleanliness of the pet.
4. **Fundamental Alteration:** The presence of the pet constitutes a fundamental alteration or change so significant that it alters the essential nature of services and/or facilities.
5. **Undue Administrative and/or Financial Burden:** The presence of the pet constitutes an undue administrative and/or financial burden incurred by the College.
6. **Illness:** Any animal with signs of illness, including but not limited to a known disease (such as rabies or psittacosis that can be transmitted to humans), severe diarrhea, severe vomiting, fever, or open sores, should not be on campus until deemed non-infectious/contagious by the written statement of a licensed veterinarian.
7. **Abandonment, neglect and mistreatment of any pet by any member of Stephens College:** This situation will not be tolerated. No warnings will be issued. In the case of abuse, the pet will be removed from the situation in order to prevent contact with the person(s) responsible for the abuse.
8. Security, in consultation with Director of Residential Life or the Vice President of Student Development, has the authority to remove a pet that is displaying unacceptable behavior immediately.

A pet will be immediately removed from a residence hall at the owner's expense if it has been brought to the campus without permission and appropriate paperwork, and appropriate sanctions will be applied to the owner(s) responsible (see below).

K. SANCTIONS

1. Each student will be expected to properly care for their animal and the animal is not to be left during breaks. A fine of \$250 will be assessed to any student who is not properly taking care of their animal or leaves the animal behind without supervision during breaks, weekends or when leaving for any other reason.
2. Abandonment, neglect and mistreatment of any pet by any member of Stephens College will not be tolerated. No warnings will be issued. In the case of abuse, the pet will be removed from the situation in order to prevent contact with the person(s) responsible for the abuse. These actions will be subject to the discretion of the Office of Residential Life and possible referral to the Vice President for Student Development for conduct action.
3. To assist in eliminating odors, pet waste is to be disposed of in the trash dumpster outside the building, not in the trashcans inside. The use of training pads for

- everyday use is highly discouraged. Failure to clean up after a pet, after an accident or outside in the campus quad or in the pet walking area, will result in the following:
- a. 1st offence: Warning
 - b. 2nd offence: \$50.00 fine
 - c. 3rd offence: the owner will be asked to take the pet home
4. Violation of this policy will result in a \$50 charge for treatment of the room by an exterminator and removal of the pet, and the student will be referred for disciplinary action.
 5. If there is aquarium-related damage, the cost to the student will be assessed at an hourly wage for clean-up and full cost of repairs.
 6. If a pet has been brought to campus without permission and appropriate paperwork, the pet will be summarily removed, the owner will be fined \$500 and will be referred for further disciplinary action to the Vice President for Student Development.

L. RELATED POLICIES

2.3.2 Service Animal Policy

2.3.3 Emotional Support Animal Policy