

First Parish Brewster Unitarian Universalist Policy

Policy Title: Animals on FPBUU Property

Board Review: 20 Apr 2017; 20 Sept 2017; 21 Nov 2023

Policy Number: 4.1

Last Reviewed: 20 Sept 2017

Purpose: To describe the conditions and guidelines for bringing Personally-owned Animals on FPBUU property

Congregations' Review Period:

1 Jun 2017

Revisions: Revision 1, 20 Sept 2018
Revision 2, Nov 2023

Effective Date: 20 Sept 2018

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy determines the limitations and procedures for Personally-owned Animals on FPBUU property.

Personally-owned animals are not allowed within FPBUU buildings with three exceptions. (1) In conformance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Service Animals are allowed within FPBUU buildings. (2) Animals, properly restrained, are welcome in the FPBUU sanctuary only for special Sunday services (such as a *Bless the Animals* church service). The special service exception must be approved by The Board of Trustees President or Minister. This exception must be announced well ahead of time to alert members and visitor that animals will be present in the FPBUU sanctuary. (3) A personally-owned dog is allowed at Winslow House if (a) the dog is properly restrained and a sign in the office reads "dog present" and (b) staff present are comfortable with this arrangement. This exception applies to the Winslow House only.

Personally-owned Animals are allowed on FPBUU grounds as long as the animal is well controlled and does not cause any disruption to activities happening on the grounds. Animals must be on leash or controlled within a car or crate. As part of the control of a personally-owned animal the animal is limited to elimination only on appropriate surfaces, avoiding all buildings and property of FPBUU as well as property of visitors of FPBUU. All solid waste must be removed from FPBUU property by the person managing the animal.

The Board of Trustees (BOT) may grant a waiver in its discretion to this policy, but before granting such a waiver the BOT shall consult with such staff and volunteers who may be affected.

PROCEDURES

1. Incidences of violation of this policy will be reported to the FPBUU Board of Trustees President or Minister who will determine what, if any, action is needed.
2. Requests for Special Events which will allow Personally-owned Animals within FPBUU buildings must be submitted to the Board of Trustees President or Minister at least one month prior to the event and will include a publication plan for notifying the participating public that animals will be present during the event. The Board of Trustees President or Minister will consider the request and its impact to the overall church population and decide whether to approve the request.
3. Emotional Support Animals do not qualify as a Service Animal under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and are not generally granted access to public places. Requests for use of an Emotional Support Animal within FPBUU buildings may be submitted to the Board of Trustees President or Minister for consideration. Approval is strictly on a case-by-case basis.

GUIDELINES

No guidelines are recommended at this time.

STANDARDS

No standards are recommended at this time.

DEFINITIONS

Personally-owned Animal – Any animal residing on a person’s property and fully controlled by that person with regards to its welfare.

Service Animal - Defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as “dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities”. See the ADA Requirements for Service Animals (https://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm) for the full definition of a Service Animal and restrictions and conditions related to use of Service Animals.

FPBUU Grounds – The portion of the property owned by FPBUU which is not within a building. This includes lawn areas and parking lots.