

INTERNAL/DEPARTMENTAL POLICY AND PROCEDURE

TITLE: Animals on Campus

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 4, 2017

CANCELLATION: None

DIVISION: BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS (BAA)

CATEGORY: Risk Management/Safety/Compliance (Y)

RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT: Risk Management, Safety, Compliance Office

PROCEDURES & SPECIFIC INFORMATION

1. **Purpose**

To address the issue of both domestic and feral animals on Delgado Community College campuses and sites.

2. **Scope and Applicability**

This policy applies to students, employees, visitors, and persons using College facilities, with the exception of individuals with disabilities being assisted by service animals.

3. **Goal**

In accordance with the College's [Comprehensive Safety Program policy](#), Delgado is committed to providing a safe environment on all campuses and sites and this policy is intended to mitigate potential risk of contact with these animals. This policy serves as the standard operating procedure for how the College will handle all animals (i.e., domestic and feral) on the campus and the expected behavior of employees, students, visitors and persons using College facilities, with the exception of individuals with disabilities being assisted by service animals.

4. **General Provisions**

- A. The College is committed to provide opportunity for service animals to assist individuals with disabilities on all campuses and sites. To be qualified to utilize a service animal for *ongoing* accommodation at Delgado Community College, the partner must register with the Office of Disability Services and supply appropriate documentation in accordance with the College's [Service Animal Procedures](#).
- B. The College recognizes that feral and domesticated stray animals pose a serious threat to the safety of any person using Delgado facilities. As these animals exist in the wild and often are untamed, there are potential risks associated with animal exposure because of direct human-animal contact.
- C. In addition to the potential for injury due to the feral or domesticated stray animal's aggressive behavior, these animals can be potential carriers of rabies, Bartonella (i.e., Cat Scratch disease), Tularemia (i.e., wild rabbits) and Borrelia (i.e., dogs), as well as various other diseases. Humans are at risk for disease when they come into direct contact with these animals.
- D. Reducing direct contact with feral and domesticated stray animals thereby reduces the risk of injury and contracting animal-related diseases.

5. **Provisions**

- A. Delgado prohibits all faculty, staff, students and visitors from direct contact with feral and stray domesticated animals on the College's campuses and sites. This does not include authorized animals at College-sponsored activities and events that the College's Safety and Risk Manager has pre-approved.
- B. Accordingly, Delgado prohibits the practice of direct feeding or leaving unattended food or liquids for feral or stray domesticated animals on the College's facilities. This practice creates the unwanted attraction of undesirable feral animals (i.e., snakes, raccoons, coyotes, possums and rats), which in turn creates additional hazards and health risks.
- C. Any food found outside on the college's premises will be promptly removed and discarded. Additionally, all trash dumpsters, are to be kept clean and covered at all time.
- D. All members of the college community are required to comply with this policy and are also responsible for reporting all violations. Violations must be reported directly to the College's Safety and Risk Manager, who coordinates all components of Delgado's [Comprehensive Safety Program](#).
- E. Any employee or student found in violation of this policy will be formally warned and subsequent violations will be handled in accordance with the College's [Disciplinary Procedures](#).

F. Any incident or injuries resulting from prohibited contact with feral and stray domesticated animals must be handled in accordance with the College's [Accident Reporting Procedures](#).

Reference:

Louisiana Community & Technical College System [Policy #6.014, Discipline for All Employees](#)
[Delgado Accident Reporting Procedures](#)
[Comprehensive Safety Program policy](#)

Review Process:

Ad Hoc Committee on Animal Policy 8/31/17
Business & Administrative Affairs Council 10/4/17

Approval:

Vice Chancellor for Business and Administrative Affairs 10/4/17