

Pet and Service Dog Policy

Pets are prohibited from all buildings on campus, an exception being service animals accompanying disabled persons or have prior permission of the Director of Facilities and Health and Safety Officer.

1. From food service areas, by regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.
2. From academic and administrative buildings
3. From residence halls and apartments (living units).

All animals brought on the campus shall meet the minimum requirements of the Department of Public Health publication, "Animals in the Classroom: Recommendations for Schools," and review student health records to determine which animals may be allowed in the school building. The decision of the Director of Facilities and Health and Safety Officer shall be final.

Student Health

The health and well-being of students is the colleges highest priority. Animals may cause an allergic reaction or otherwise impair the health of students. No animals may be brought the college or kept in the college, classroom, office or common area that may negatively impact the health of any student who must utilize that area. Animals that cause an allergic reaction or impair the health of students shall be removed from the school immediately so that no student shall have his/her health impaired.

Animals Prohibited from MassArt

Rabies is a growing problem, and any fur-bearing animal is susceptible to this very serious fatal disease. Infected animals can transmit this disease to students, faculty and staff. Based on the Massachusetts Departments of Health and Education recommendations the following animals are prohibited from Massachusetts College of Art and Design.

Wild Animals and Domestic Stray Animals

Because of the high incidence of rabies in bats, raccoons, skunks, foxes, and other wild carnivores, these animals should not be permitted in college buildings under any circumstances (including dead animals).

Fur-Bearing Animals (pet dogs*, cats, wolf-hybrids, ferrets, etc.,)

These animals may pose a risk for transmitting rabies, as well as parasites, fleas, other diseases, and injuries.

Bats

Bats pose a high risk for transmitting rabies. Bat houses should not be installed on college grounds, and bats should not be brought into the college building.

Poisonous Animals

Spiders, venomous insects and poisonous snakes, reptiles, and lizards are prohibited for safety reasons.

***Exception: Guide, Hearing, and Other Service Dogs or Law Enforcement Dogs**

These animals may be allowed in school or on school grounds with proof of current rabies vaccination. Exceptions may be made with the prior approval of the Director of Facilities and Health and Safety Officer.

Service Animals (Guide or Assistance Dogs)

The Massachusetts College of Art and Design does not permit discrimination against individuals with disabilities, including those who require the assistance of a service animal. The college will comply with Massachusetts law concerning the rights of persons with guide or assistance dogs and with federal law and will permit such animals on college premises.

For purposes of this policy, a "service animal includes any dog that has been individually trained to do the work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability." The regulations further state that "a public entity shall make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of a miniature horse by an individual with a disability if the horse has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of the individual with the disability."

Service animals perform some of the functions and tasks that individuals with disabilities cannot perform themselves. Service animals are not pets. There are several kinds of service animals that assist individuals with disabilities. Examples include, but are not limited to, animals that:

- assist individuals who are blind or have severe sight impairments as "seeing eye dogs" or "guide dogs;"
- alert individuals with hearing impairments to sounds;
- pull wheelchairs or carry and pick-up items for individuals with mobility impairments; and
- assist individuals with mobility impairments with balance.

The college shall not assume or take custody or control of, or responsibility for, any service animal or the care or feeding thereof. The owner or person having custody and control of the dog shall be liable for any damage to persons, premises, property, or facilities caused by the service animal, including, but not limited to, clean up, stain removal, etc.