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Policy

UNIVERSITY POLICY ES-09.03-04/20

TO: The University of West Florida Community

FROM: Dr. Martha D. Saunders, President

SUBJECT: Wildlife and Feral Animal Control

Responsible Office: Environmental Health and Safety

I. Purpose:

To set forth University policy concerning wildlife and feral animal control on the University's main campus and within University facilities.

II. Policy Statement:

The University of West Florida is located in an area that is inhabited by various species of wildlife. The University endeavors to protect all wildlife, in particular, the wildlife species that are designated as endangered, threatened, or protected by federal and state laws and regulations.

III. Definitions

A. Wildlife and feral animals – a non-domesticated animal whether living in or removed from its natural habitat or a once-domesticated animal, whether living in or removed from its natural habitat.

B. Domesticated Animals are regulated by University Policy P-19.01-12/19, not this policy and include pets, service animals, emotional support animals, assistance animals, Service Animals in Training and therapy animals.

IV. Animal Control Restrictions include the following:

A. Wild or feral animals shall be left alone.

B. No person shall disturb, harm, or molest any wildlife or feral animals found on campus.

C. Feral cats that are part of the UWF Campus Cat Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Program supervised by the UWF Campus Cat Task Force.

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V. UWF Campus Cat TNR Program

The UWF Campus Cat TNR Program was established in 2017 in response to University Policy ES-09.02-04.17: Wildlife and Domesticated Animal Control. Volunteers consisting of UWF faculty and staff, in consultation with community professionals and specialists, monitor, evaluate and provide humane cat care to include daily feeding, fresh water, shelter, and health care. UWF's active Trap-Neuter (Spay)-Return (TNR) program exceeds Escambia County Cat Management Ordinance (Sec 10-28) requiring that cats be sterilized, vaccinated against rabies, ear-tipped for easy identification, and returned to the university to live out their life. UWF cats also receive vaccination against distemper, parasite control, and any other veterinarian recommended intervention.

VI. Any person found to be in violation of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action under UWF employment policies, the Code of Student Conduct, and/or arrest and prosecution for violations of federal or state law.

VII. The relocation, removal and/or destruction of endangered, threatened, or protected wildlife from the University shall be accomplished by officers of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Department of Environmental Protection or persons who are licensed and authorized by those agencies to handle wildlife, with approval of the Vice President for Finance and Administration.

VIII. The removal of nuisance stray/abandoned domestic animals shall be accomplished by Escambia County Animal Services, the Pensacola Humane Society, the UWF Campus Cat Task Force, or any other entity with authority over stray/abandoned domestic animals.

IX. To initiate the removal or control of animals on the University campus, contact the Environmental Health and Safety Department or University Police.

X. This policy is being revised and updated as the result of a review of University Environmental Health and Safety policies.

Authority and Related Documents: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; UWF/ REG -2.005 Use of Facilities; and UWF/ REG -5.020- Trespass and Access to University Property.

APPROVED: DocuSigned by: Martha Saunders D54A387C376848D... Date: 04/03/2020

Dr. Martha D. Saunders, President

History: P-01.00-05/ 01 Animal Control, adopted May 2001; amended and renamed hereby.