

HMC Policy Concerning Dogs and Cats

The college has had no policy concerning the presence of dogs and cats in the academic portion of campus. One could argue that they have been allowed there in recent years, but that has occurred more from the absence of a formal policy, rather than the presence of a policy that specifically permitted their presence.

In the past few years a number of issues have arisen that require us to rethink this situation. Among the factors leading to this point are:

- 1) Health issues for staff, faculty and students
- 2) Safety issues
- 3) Equity issues with respect to students and staff
- 4) Potential legal issues surrounding pet-related incidents.

As a result the administration and department chairs have had a series of discussions related to this issue. It has become clear that the status quo is untenable and a change must occur. After considerable conversation we have come to the conclusion that in general:

- 1) **As of July 1, 2008 only dogs that are, under the law considered police, guide*, signal*, or service* dogs may be brought into any of the academic or administrative buildings on campus.**
- 2) **No cats will be allowed in any academic or administrative buildings on campus.**
- 3) **The College reserves the right to consider granting and terminating exceptions to this policy when special or unique circumstances warrant. The Dean of Faculty will have responsibility for making such determinations that involve faculty members and the Vice President for Administration and Finance/Treasurer for those involving staff members.**

We understand that this is a change in culture and will be difficult for a number of the community for whom their pets provide support. The Dean of Faculty and the Vice President for Administration and Finance/Treasurer will be happy to talk with anyone who is affected by this. Dogs and cats will still be allowed on leashes on the outdoor grounds of the campus.

* Guide dog means any guide dog that was trained by a person licensed under Chapter 9.5 (commencing with Section 7200) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code or as defined in the regulations implementing Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (public Law 101-336)). Signal dog means any dog trained to alert an individual who is deaf or hearing impaired to intruders or sounds. Service dog means any dog individually trained to the requirements of the individual with a disability, including but not limited to, minimal protection work, rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items. The ADA defines a service animal as any animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including but not limited to guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals to an impending seizure or protecting individuals during one, alerting individuals who are hearing impaired to danger, or pulling a wheelchair and fetching dropped items.

Approved by the President's Cabinet
June 30, 2008