



# CAMPUS LIVING PET PROGRAM

**ROSS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL  
OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS**

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## PURPOSE

RUSVM aims to contribute to the educational experience of our students by offering a diversity of housing options and related services to our students. Adding to our students' educational experience is our Pet Program which has been in existence since September 2017. The program caters **only** to enrolled first and/or Vet Prep new incoming students traveling with an eligible pet to St. Kitts. Our Campus Living Pet Housing is limited to designated rooms **only** in one of our Residence Halls, Cleghorn Hall.

This pet policy contains the guiding principles, which are geared towards ensuring that the physical conditions of the residences and the rights of all students, employees and guests are protected. Incoming students who wish to bring a pet to reside in our residences acknowledge and agree to this policy, its conditions and consequences. Therefore, pet owners should carefully weigh the advantages and disadvantages of living with their pet at the Campus Residence Halls. RUSVM reserves the right to terminate the program with a semester's notice to its campus living residents and/or interested new incoming student(s).

## AN RUSVM PET

RUSVM (Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine) defines a pet as follows:

1. A domesticated cat, dog or RUSVM approved animal (under 35lbs / 16kg) that has met all of the RUSVM and the St. Kitts & Nevis Pet Importation criteria.
2. Cats must be at least six months old and would have lived with the student for at least three months prior to living on-campus.
3. Dogs must be at least one year old and have lived with the student for at least six months prior to living on-campus.
4. **ONLY** a pet that travels into St. Kitts with its owner for the first time qualifies to live at the Residence Halls.
5. Dogs must be house broken.
6. Cats must be litter box trained.

**Accepted Pets:** Small dogs, cats, small birds, rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, chinchillas under 35lbs and selective lizards.

## IMPORTATION & REGISTRATION

1. To enter St. Kitts, the pet **MUST** be approved by the Ministry of Agriculture (Veterinary Division).
  - Pet Import Check List - <https://veterinary.rossu.edu/media/13531/pet-import-checklist.pdf>
  - Pet Import Application form - <https://veterinary.rossu.edu/media/11806/application-for-permit-to-import-animals-into-st.kitts-and-nevis.pdf>
2. Pet housing assignments are processed only on a first come, first served basis. Students are assigned to **available** rooms in the order of the date requests are received.
3. Pet owners must complete the registration form to request approval for their pet to qualify as an On Campus Living Pet – (link to form goes here)
4. A non-refundable pet fee of US\$300 will apply. The fee is to be paid at the Accounts Dept. on campus once the pet has been approved to live on campus. The non-pro-rated, non-refundable pet fee covers:
  - Mandatory cleaning at the end of the semester
  - One RUSVM ID tag
  - Waste facilities for pets at the residence grounds
  - Deep cleaning and steaming of appliances & furnishings
  - Special semesterly extermination of the facility

## HALL REGULATIONS

1. The pet is permitted **ONLY** on designated floors in Cleghorn Hall.
2. Only the pet traveling with their owner is allowed in Cleghorn Hall.
3. **ONLY ONE** pet per living quarter is allowed. If in a double room, **ONLY ONE** pet per room. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
4. The pet must reside with its owner it is registered to live with.
5. The pet owner is not allowed to leave their pet in their room, unattended over mid-semester break, when traveling or during a storm/natural disaster.
6. No pet sitting, fostering, adoption is allowed on the Hall.
7. The pet must **ALWAYS** be on a leash and supervised when in the halls, and stairwells.
8. No pet is allowed in the study lounges and public restrooms.
9. When room maintenance requests are submitted, the pet **MUST** be crated/caged during work hours (between 8am and 4:00pm even if the pet's owner is present) or when requested until the work order has been completed.
10. No pet toys, trash, feeding bowls or personal effects must be left in the hallways and stairwells.
11. The pet owner must ensure that their pet is wearing (or displaying) their assigned ID tags at all times.
12. Pets are not allowed to defecate or urinate **ANYWHERE** in the Hall or living quarter.

## OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

1. The pet owner assumes all responsibility for their pet's actions, regardless of circumstances.
2. Under no circumstance is the pet owner to leave their pet unattended/unsupervised on the Campus Living grounds, in the hallways, or anywhere on the campus grounds.
3. The pet owner is responsible for cleaning up after their pet (poop and scoop). The pet owner must use poop bags and deposit them in the pet waste receptacles provided on the Campus Living grounds. A fine of US\$20 will be applied if the pet owner is not able to demonstrate an intention (not having poop bags) to pick-up after their pet.
4. Pet owners must ensure that their cat/dog's (especially cats) claws are trimmed regularly or kept low.
5. Owners are responsible for any damage to University property that their pet may cause (this includes and is not limited to damage to fixtures & furniture, tick & flea infestation, and urine soaked furniture).
6. Once outside of the living quarter, pets MUST be on a leash at ALL times EXCEPT when in the designated play area.
7. Toys, repellants and surfaces specifically made for scratching, such as scratching posts must be supplied by the pet owner to prevent damage to living quarters.
8. No toys, food, or trash must be left behind on the Campus Living grounds. RUSVM will not be held responsible for the disappearance of any personalized pet items left on the grounds.

## COMPLAINTS & CONSEQUENCES

1. All issues regarding the Pet Policy and or requests are handled by the Housing Department.
2. Pet complaints are reviewed by the Housing Department on a case-by-case basis.
3. Any member of the RUSVM community may file a pet related complaint via email or verbally with The Housing Department.
4. Failure to comply with the Pet Policy and/or requests of the Housing Department may result in a conduct action, or additional action deemed necessary by the University, which may include, but is not limited to, warnings, removal of the pet from campus, removal of the pet owner from campus, and/or student conduct action.
5. Non-compliance with Housing Department decision may result in the loss of the privilege to reside in on-campus Pet-Friendly Housing.
6. Appeals of the Housing Department's decision can be referred to the Professional Standards Specialist.
7. No pet is allowed to become a nuisance to the RUSVM community. A nuisance is defined as, but is not limited to, excessive noise, physical harm to humans or other pets, and destruction of property. Pets attacking other pets or humans will not be tolerated. Any report received of a pet having attacked another pet or person will result in the automatic removal of the pet off of the Campus Living premises.
8. Mistreatment of any pets will not be tolerated. No warnings will be issued, and these actions will be subject to the discretion of the Housing Department & Student Life Professional Standards Specialist. In the case of abuse, the Housing Department will remove the pet from the residence hall in order to prevent contact with the person(s) responsible for the abuse.
9. Damages incurred to any part of the room – furniture, fixtures, electricals and linen by the pet is the responsibility of the pet owner.

Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine's (RUSVM) Veterinary Clinic is accredited by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA, [www.aaha.org](http://www.aaha.org)). The clinic provides a range of medical and surgical services for small animals, including preventive care and emergency medicine. RUSVM's initial accreditation was granted in July 2010.

Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine confers a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree which is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education (AVMA COE), 1931 N. Meacham Road, Suite 100, Schaumburg, IL 60173, Tel: 800.248.2862. For more information please visit <https://www.avma.org/education/accreditation-veterinary-colleges>.