

BP 3450 Feral and Stray Animals on District Property

Reference:

California Penal Code Sections 597 et seq., 370, 374.4, 597s, 626.6;
Food and Agricultural Code Sections 31751 et seq.;
Orange County Ordinance 4-1-106;
Anaheim Municipal Code 6.44.010.1301.

- 1.0 **Purpose and Scope:** The North Orange County Community College District (“District”) is committed to maintaining a safe and sanitary environment for students, employees, and visitors, and a humane environment for animals. This policy establishes standards governing the presence, treatment, and management of animals on District property. For the purposes of this policy, the District recognizes “community cats” as free-roaming cats that may be feral or stray, and distinguishes managed animal programs from unauthorized or ad hoc activities. Service Animals are governed by Board Policy 3440, Service Animals.
- 2.0 **Protection of Animals:** Animal cruelty as defined in California Penal Code Section 597 is a crime and any such conduct on District property is strictly prohibited. Violations shall be reported immediately to the Chancellor or designee for investigation and appropriate administrative action, including notice to local law enforcement or animal control authorities as required by law.
- 3.0 **Feeding Animals:** Feeding stray or feral animals in outdoor areas attracts pests and wildlife, contributes to unsanitary working conditions, violates state anti-littering laws, and interferes with the orderly operations and peaceful conduct of the activities of the campus. Unmanaged or unauthorized feeding of animals on District property is prohibited. Feeding may occur only as part of a District-approved animal management program, conducted by authorized partners or designees, and only at designated locations with required sanitation and cleanup practices. Unauthorized feeding that creates health, safety, or operational concerns may result in enforcement action.
- 4.0 **Community Cat Management:** To protect public health and safety and to promote the humane treatment of animals, the Chancellor or designee shall develop and implement, or authorize selected agencies, organizations, or licensed veterinarians to implement, District-approved programs or partnerships.
 - 4.1 The District may authorize managed community cat programs, including Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), as a humane and evidence-based approach to stabilizing cat populations where appropriate; and
 - 4.2 Mass removal or relocation of cats is not the preferred approach except in limited circumstances involving injury, illness, or other conditions that make return infeasible. Kittens and adoptable cats may be placed through approved rescue pathways or cat sanctuaries when appropriate.

All such activities shall be conducted in a manner consistent with applicable animal welfare laws, local ordinances, and public health regulations.

- 5.0 **Pets on District Property:** Animals, including but not limited to pets, are generally prohibited from all District-owned or -controlled property, except as specifically exempted by law or with prior written authorization. If animals are brought to a District property, the

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animals must be kept on a leash or harness or secured by other means of physical control at all times; must be prevented from excessive barking, noise, or any other behavior that disturbs the orderly operation of the campus or property; and may not be left unattended. Individuals who bring animals to a District property must immediately and properly dispose of all animal waste and shall be responsible for any and all damage caused by the animal(s). See Board Policy 3440 for requirements concerning service animals.

6.0 **Oversight, Authorization, and Review:** The Chancellor or designee shall retain oversight of all animal management activities on District property, and establish Administrative Procedures to ensure compliance with this policy, including procedures for:

- 6.1 Coordination with local animal control and humane organizations;
- 6.2 Reporting and abatement of health and safety risks associated with feral and stray animals on District property; and
- 6.3 Communication to the campus community regarding this policy.

See Board Policy 3440, Service Animals

Date of Adoption: March 10, 2026