Order of Saint Benedict Policy and Saint John's University Policy
Effective November 1, 2017, last modified November 1, 2017

Hammocks/Slacklines at Saint John's

Welcome to the lands of Saint John's Abbey. The Abbey has owned and cared for this site since 1856. In keeping with our Benedictine values, the monastic community is pleased to share our home with you where you may observe nature and be physically and spiritually refreshed. As a guest on this private property, please be respectful of our policies and this land which we consider sacred. Thank you.

Policy Statement

- No dogs, cats, horses or other pet animals are allowed, whether or not they are leashed or restrained.
- Feeding or sheltering of feral cats or dogs is not allowed.
- Service animals as prescribed by Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are permitted. Frequently Asked Questions about Service Animals and the ADA

Additional Policy Statement Information

- This policy applies to all students, residents, employees and visitors of Saint John's.
- This policy applies to all areas of the inner, developed SJU campus.
- This policy applies to all areas of the outer, undeveloped Abbey forest and lands.

Guests /Staff:
Alumni, staff, visitors and guests who bring pets to campus must keep them inside their vehicles at all times while at Saint John's. Neither leashed nor unleashed pets are allowed on the grounds. If the animals need an outside break, they can be taken off-campus to public lands such as the Wobegon Trail two miles north of campus or to Mill Stream Park in St. Joseph.

Students:
Students may not keep pets on campus or in their dormitories. The only exception is fish, which are allowed as pets in dorms. (See SJU Residential Life Policies.)

Allowed use of animals at Saint John's:

- Animals which are kept for monastic or educational use are allowed if Abbey and/or University protocols are met. (Laboratory studies, honey bees, Abbey companion dogs, etc.)
- Animals being used as an intrinsic part of an event are allowed if the liability insurance requirements for such an event have been met and proper event approvals have been granted. (Horse drawn wagons, petting zoos, pet shows, etc.)
- Sheriff's Mounted Patrol.

Reason for Policy

Private Property:
The land of Saint John's Abbey is private property and is the permanent home of the monastic community as well as the home of many students for much of the year. As the owners, the Abbey has set forth these rules for the use of their property.

The Abbey and University welcome you to walk the campus and trails and enjoy the land. However, pets are not allowed for the greater good of all visitors. Even if a pet is well-behaved, please be advised that pets are not allowed on campus grounds, in any of the building, or on any of the outlying Abbey land.

Safety:
Not all dogs and pets, even when leashed, behave predictably in any given situation. It would be impossible to verify in advance whose pets were predictable. Even if leashed dogs and pets were allowed, many people would then take the next step and want to allow the pets to "roam free" so they could do some exploring, as dogs love to do.

Respect:
Not all of our students, visitors, or the monks who own the land want to experience dogs and other pets either close-up or running in the woods. Not all pet owners are diligent about picking up the waste from the trails which can lower the quality of the experience for others. If allowed on the property, some people will see their pets as "family" and want to bring them into the refectory, the church, or other buildings on campus.

Wildlife:
Habitat preservation is another issue. Saint John's has been designated a Minnesota State Game Refuge since 1933. Dogs have good senses that can locate and disturb ground nesting and shore birds, small mammals and reptiles, and may dig out burrows. Wild animals in the refuge do not need the additional stress that they sense when a predator such as a dog is in the area. Feral cats that have been released by their owners are already a big problem at Saint John's, killing large numbers of wild birds.

Feeding and sheltering feral cats and dogs as informal "pets" is not allowed because it encourages some wildlife species such as skunks and raccoons to become acclimated to humans when they also learn to eat from these feeding stations. This can quickly become a safety

concern for humans. Wild animals that become territorial of their food stations and/or are surprised by humans walking by the area may react by spraying or biting and other defensive mechanisms. Feeding and sheltering feral cats and dogs also allows these animals to expand their ability to disturb the native wildlife through predation.

Liability:
Saint John's is private property, not a public park. All use of Abbey land and lakeshore is at the individual's own risk and pets on campus in violation of this policy are the legal responsibility of their owners.

Other options for pet owners:
There are many nearby public parks and places (Wobegon Trail, Mill Stream Park) where people can bring dogs and other pets.

Special Situations

The Director of Life Safety may approve exemptions for people wanting a pet at Saint John's for less than 7 consecutive days. Exemptions will not commonly be granted due to the potentially large demand from pet owners for exemptions for "special pets" in "special circumstances." Conditions, such as the locations where it can be outdoors and any leashing, etc will accompany any such exemption.

The Abbey Senior Council may approve exemptions for people wanting a pet at Saint John's for more than 7 consecutive days. This could include permanent campus residents and long-term visitors who wish to have a pet. Conditions on the type and size of pet, leashing, and the locations where it can be outdoors will accompany any such exemption. All Abbey or University animals approved for use as pets or companions on campus must be designated with a vest or other method that allows campus security officers and other people to immediately recognize the animal's legitimate status anytime they are on Saint John's land or in buildings that are not designated as off-limits to the public.

Rates, Fees, or Penalties

Policy violators will be asked to immediately place their pet in a vehicle and/or remove it from Saint John's.

Violators may be ticketed and fined by Life Safety.
Violators may be restricted from Saint John's property.

Contacts

Subject	Contact	Phone	E-Mail
Policy Enforcement	Life Safety Services	320-363-2144	LSaftey@csbsju.edu
Events using animals	Abbey Land Manager	320-363-3163	abbeyarboretum@csbsju.edu or outdooru@csbsju.edu
Pet Policy Modifications	Abbey Forest & Lands Committee	320-363-3163	abbeyarboretum@csbsju.edu
Corporate Responsibility	SJ Abbey Treasurer	320-363-3167	sjainfo@osb.org

Procedures and Forms

In support of this policy, the following procedures and forms are included:

Potential Exemptions to Policy:

- Pet owners seeking an exemption to the policy lasting less than 7 days must contact Life Safety Services at least 10 business days before exemption is needed explaining the type of pet and the reason for the exemption.
- Pet owners seeking an exemption to the policy lasting more than 7 days must contact the Land Manager to start the process which may be quite lengthy.

Events wishing to use animals:

- Event organizers must contact the Abbey Land Manager at least 10 days before event and describe the animals being proposed for event use. Be prepared to provide proof of liability insurance.

Definitions

Pet: A pet is an animal kept for companionship and enjoyment or a household animal. These can include but are not limited to creatures such as dogs, cats, horses, rabbits, rodents, birds, reptiles, fish, insects, and wild animals.

A service animal is any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained or in training to provide assistance to an individual with a disability. Frequently Asked Questions about Service Animals and the ADA

Order of Saint Benedict, Saint John's Abbey, Saint John's or Abbey all refer to the monastic community legally named Order of Saint Benedict.

Policy History

Approved by:
Saint John's Abbey Treasurer on 14 June 2010
OSB Forest and Lands Committee on 14 June 2010
OSB Senior Council on 29 June 2010
OSB Senior Council on 9 September 2015

Endorsed by:
Saint John's University on _____
Saint John's University Regents on _____

- Saint John's Abbey owns and controls the land and retains the right to modify its policies at any time. Minor amendments and corrections endorsed by the Abbey Forest and Lands Committee and approved by the Abbey Treasurer may be made as needed.
- Some version of a "No Pets" rule has been in place for decades.
- A 2001 Life Safety Enforcement policy stated that "No dogs, cats, horses or other pet animals are allowed, whether they are leashed/restrained or not."