SECTION 1. Purpose

1.1 The primary purpose of the Administrative Procedure is to set forth the guidelines for pets on campus.

SECTION 2. Definitions.

2.1 Domestic Animal. Any bird, reptile, or any other mammal kept as a pet. Fish are exempt from this definition.

2.2 Dog Owner. Anyone who brings a dog on campus.

2.3 Dog. A domesticated dog.

2.4 Service Animal. 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.

SECTION 3. Administrative Procedure

3.1 Blue Ridge Community and Technical College is committed to the safety and well-being of its employees and students with the ultimate goal of providing the safest working and learning environment possible for our employees, students, and visitors. The College also recognizes the important role domestic animals can play in the lives of employees and students. At the same time domestic animals are not suitable to bring on campus because: 1) individuals may have fears or allergies associated with certain domestic animals, 2) domestic animals may be a nuisance and a distraction in the learning/working environment, and 3) are often unpredictable and can exhibit uncontrollable behavior. All of these factors present both a safety and a health hazard for the College community.

3.2 Animals on Campus, in Work Areas, and in Buildings

3.2.1 Only service animals are permitted in any building at any time. Dogs, cats, and other domestic animals may not enter campus buildings;

3.2.2 Service animals are authorized throughout campus at all times;

3.2.3 No domestic animal, as defined in this document, other than service animal, may be on the College grounds at any time.

3.3 Areas of Campus Where and Dogs are permitted.
3.3.1 Dogs are permitted outdoors on College property at all times, subject to the requirements of the section 3.4.

3.4 Dog Owner’s Responsibilities:

3.4.1 Whenever a dog is on the College's campus in accordance with this policy, the dog must be kept on a leash and under the control and possession of the owner at all times. The dog owner is responsible for caring for the dog, ensuring the safe and responsible behavior of the dog, and preventing the dog from chasing wildlife on campus. No person shall bring, at any time, a dog, including a service dog, onto College owned or controlled property unless the dog has current immunization against disease, including rabies, distemper and parvovirus. All dogs must wear a rabies vaccination tag. The dog owner is also responsible for cleaning up and properly disposing of waste the dog leaves in outdoor areas of campus.

3.5 Policy Enforcement

3.5.1 Blue Ridge Community and Technical College Campus Security will enforce any violation of this policy. This policy has been written in accordance with County Commission of Berkeley County West Virginia Management and Control of Dogs and Certain Other Animals: 1st Amendment

SECTION 4. Exceptions

4.1 The President of the College, or his/her designee, may make exceptions to this policy for academic and other reasons as may be deemed appropriate.

4.1.1 Animals required for College program participation with appropriate oversight by the pet's owner are exempt. Examples include Animal Care Nursing Assistant and Animal Care for the Pet Owner.

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10/18/12