

## Vision & Purpose Statement

This policy regarding animals is intended to promote a harmonious relationship among animals, animal owners, and non-animal owners and a peaceful, clean, and safe environment for all. CoHo Ecovillage members acknowledge the fun, affection, comforts, and meaning pets and other animals add to their families' lives. We also acknowledge that some members may prefer neither to have animals nor to interact with others' animals. We also value native wildlife and the environment and want to protect it from the negative impact of domestic animals.

This document is intended to outline provisions for meeting the needs of all perspectives mentioned above and provides a platform for any conflicts to be addressed should they arise.

## Policy

It is expected that community members will observe the following provisions.

### Overall:

- Individuals must be responsible and care for their own animals.
- Animal owners are expected to be responsive to concerns expressed by others regarding problem behavior.
- Animal owners are expected to minimize their animal's impact on wildlife
- Service animals are the only animals allowed in the common house.
- In common areas, owners are responsible for thoroughly cleaning up their animal's feces at the time of deposit.
- We have a deep concern for birds and other wildlife. It is therefore asked that you control your pet to minimize disruption or harm to wildlife.
- Hosts of guests will be responsible for informing their guests of the policy as it relates to their visiting pets.

### Dogs:

When outdoors, dogs should either be confined to a yard, on a leash, or under voice control and supervision.

### Cats:

Out of respect for our desire to protect wildlife, we do not have outdoor or free-range cats. There are no exceptions to this.

Similar to dogs, when outdoors, cats should either be confined to a yard, on a leash, or under supervision. Supervision means that the owner is aware of and attentive to their behavior and will stop their cat's stalking and hunting immediately.

**Feral cats:**

We don't want more feral cats to become dependent on us. If you see a new feral cat, please don't feed it. But please do contact the Feral Cat Club.

**Domesticated animals that live outside (e.g. chickens, rabbits or other farm animals):**

Prior to bringing a domesticated animal that will live outside of the owner's unit on CoHo property, members are asked to announce their intention to the community, along with relevant details. We ask that the announcement be made first by email and also at the monthly CoHo Day meeting, with time set aside on the agenda for questions and reactions. A minimum of two weeks should be allowed following the initial announcement and any concerns should be resolved before the animal can arrive at CoHo.

**Suggestion**

If there is a problem with a particular animal, you are encouraged to speak directly with the owner of the animal. If no resolution is reached, we suggest using another problem solving method such as mediation, a sharing circle, or review of the policy.

**Needs/Requests**

- Need for fun, affection, comfort and meaning attained through the companionship of animals.
- Need for ease in not being negatively affected by another's animals.
- Need for harmony amongst our neighbors and our animals.
- Need for a peaceful, clean and safe environment.
- Need to respect wildlife and to support a wide variety of native birds and other animals.

**CoHo Vision and Values**

Our Animal Policy supports our community Values of:

- Cooperation and Friendship
- Environmental Sustainability
- A Diverse Community
- Safety and Trust
- The Interconnectedness of Life

**Facts**

CoHo community members have pets and other animals.

## **Assumptions**

Animals will remain a part of the CoHo Ecovillage community in the future.  
An animal will sometimes sneak out of a household.

## **Revision History**

The CoHo Pet Policy was created and initially approved 20050821.

This policy was revised and consensed upon on 20100725.

This policy was reviewed and approved without revisions on 20130610.

This policy was reviewed with minor edits and approved on 20180426.

The Animal Policy was created to better meet the current way members of the community are sharing our lives with both our pets and the wildlife who also call CoHo home. The previous Pet Policy was retired and this new Animal Policy was consensed upon and approved by the community on 20220116.