Research, Education, and Economics Agricultural Research Service

April 3, 2018

SUBJECT: Pet Policy at U.S. National Arboretum

To: All National Arboretum Staff, Stakeholders, Contractors, and Volunteers

FROM: Richard T. Olsen

Center Director, United States National Arboretum

The United States National Arboretum is a collections-based research facility and public garden. This dual purpose is recognized in the National Arboretum Act of 1927 and special authorities have been granted to the National Arboretum to fulfill purposes unique to the public nature of the facility in Washington, D.C. When not otherwise designated, we follow official General Services Administration (GSA) rules for government real property with guidance from USDA's Office of General Counsel (OGC). Employees in Beltsville, MD follow BARC policies regarding pets.

Pet Policy for Visitors, Employees, Stakeholders, Contractors and Volunteers:

The National Arboretum allows visitors to bring pets onto the premises that have proper vaccinations. With the exception of service animals, pets must be kept on a leash at all times (7 CFR §500.10). While these pets may be on the grounds, they are prohibited from Federal buildings (41 CFR §102-74.425). Service animals are allowed in buildings under the Department of Justice's regulations on administering the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Beltsville Location policy #07-05 allows for pets only on public access roads, and they must be under control of their owner.

While acting in their official capacity or on behalf of the National Arboretum, employees, stakeholders, contractors and volunteers are not permitted to bring animals with them to the National Arboretum. Furthermore, employees are not allowed to bring personal animals to work for official purposes, such as nuisance animal deterrence, as this is not sanctioned by the Director's Office.

Thank you for following this policy.