

YEDİTEPE UNIVERSITY

HEALTHY CAMPUS – STRAY ANIMALS DIRECTIVE

Purpose and Scope

Article 1- The purpose of this Directive is to regulate the procedures and principles of care, feeding, rehabilitation, training, and adoption of stray animals within the boundaries of the university campus. The Directive aims to facilitate a problem-free coexistence of stray animals with students and employees on campus.

Legal Basis

Article: 2 –

Regulation on the Protection of Animals

Law No. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Plant Health, Food and Feed

Regulation on the Identification and Registration of Cats, Dogs, and Ferrets,

Law No. 2860 on Fundraising

Universal Declaration of Animal Rights, Law No. 5199 on Animal Protection, Law No. 2872 on Environmental Protection

Waste Management Regulation

Student Disciplinary Procedures under Law No. 2547

Administrative Fines under the Environmental Law No. 2872

Article: 3 - Definitions

Stray Dog: Dogs living in urban or rural areas, including campuses, residential areas, and villages, that are dependent on humans for food and not under the responsibility of any person as per current legislation.

Stray Cat: Cats living in urban or rural areas, including campuses, residential areas, and villages, that are dependent on humans for food and not under the responsibility of any person as per current legislation.

Feeding Area: These are designated areas within the habitat of stray animals where they can easily and safely access food. Being fed in these areas ensures that the animals do not develop territorial instincts that might harm other animals or people. Such areas are organized to prevent behaviors like chasing vehicles or motorcycles in an attempt to protect their territory and resources. Volunteers regularly and systematically place pet food or food leftovers at these points. Feeding points are determined by the General Secretariat and are located near the outer borders of the campus, away from vehicle traffic."

Dog Food: Specially formulated and consumed foods for dogs and related species

Leftover Food: Leftover food from humans is converted into a form safe for dogs and distributed at feeding points. Especially in hot weather, due to high bacteria production capacity, they must be cleaned quickly if not consumed promptly.

Zoonotic Disease: A term describing any infectious disease transmitted from vertebrate animals to humans (zooanthroponosis) and from humans to vertebrate animals (anthropozoonosis). Many serious and significant diseases fall under this category.

- Diseases Transmitted from Cats and Dogs to Humans.
- Viral Zoonoses
- Bacterial Zoonoses
- Ectoparasitic Zoonoses
- Endoparasitic Zoonoses
- Fungal (Mycotic Zoonoses)
- Rabies: An acute, viral disease affecting all warm-blooded animals, leading to death within 10 days of onset.

Rabies Vaccine: The most effective way to prevent rabies, a deadly viral infection transmitted from animals to humans. It is essential that stray animals are vaccinated.

Combined Vaccine: A vital vaccine for dogs, administered annually. The mixed vaccine contains antibodies to prevent five diseases: canine distemper, hepatitis, parainfluenza, parvovirus, and leptospirosis.

Internal and External Parasite Treatment: Parasites, capable of causing direct diseases or acting as carriers, are dangerous for both animals and humans, leading to many zoonotic (transmittable from animal to human) diseases. Various forms of antiparasitic drugs are available, including tablets, injections, syrups, and drops. Domestic animals should be treated with internal parasite drugs at one and a half months old and with external parasite drugs when they reach the appropriate weight. These antiparasitic treatments should be repeated approximately every two months throughout their lives. Internal parasite drugs are effective against parasites like hookworms, roundworms, and liver flukes. External parasite drugs are effective against external parasites such as fleas, ticks, and lice.

Pack Formation: This term refers to the process where stray dogs, which have not interacted enough with humans, begin to live together due to their instinct to be part of a pack. In situations of pack formation, dogs that might be quite docile when alone can become aggressive towards beings they perceive as vulnerable, driven by the psychology of the pack.

Resource Guarding: This is the reaction dogs exhibit when they do not want to share a resource they perceive as valuable, which can be instinctual or a result of incorrect play that enhances the value of the resource. It occurs when a dog reacts defensively if approached or if someone tries to take the resource away. This behavior includes dogs guarding items or spaces bearing the scent of their owners or people they interact with frequently, even in the absence of food - such as guarding food bowls or areas where they eat. For dogs living in packs, it involves guarding their territory. Resource guarding can also manifest as chasing cars, motorcycles, bicycles, or even pursuing running people, which can be an extension of their hunting instinct.

Area Guarding: This behavior is the act of preventing other animals, besides those from their own pack, from entering the area where they live or consuming food. This behavior can manifest more intensely, especially in guarding breeds and their crossbreeds.

Hunting and Chasing Behavior: This is one of the instinctual behaviors of dogs, characterized by their instinctual reaction towards moving, running, or rolling objects and beings.

Half-Feral Living Form: This refers to the offspring of dogs that have had no human interaction, bred among themselves without human contact. These dogs are typically timid, fearful, and skittish when alone but can become dangerous toward weaker beings when in a pack.

Natural Environment: The natural environment or natural world encompasses all living and non-living entities that occur naturally. The term 'natural environment' is often used specifically for the Earth and certain parts of the Earth. This concept includes the interaction of all species of life, climate, weather, and natural resources that affect human survival and economic activity..

Polluter: According to the definition in the Environmental Law, a polluter is 'individuals and legal entities who cause environmental pollution directly or indirectly as a result of their actions' (Article 2/d)."

Ecosystem: These are ecological systems formed by the mutual interactions between living organisms and their inanimate environments in a specific area. A food web also shapes an ecosystem.

Ecology: This branch of natural science studies the interactions of living organisms with each other and their physical environment. Ecology examines organisms at individual, population, community, ecosystem, and biosphere levels.

Waste: Any material that has been used, is no longer wanted, and harms the environment. Biological waste such as sweat, urea, and feces are also considered waste.

Spaying/Neutering: An anesthesia operation to prevent uncontrolled breeding in dogs and cats.

Banned Dogs and Dangerous Breeds: According to the Animal Protection Law No. 5199 and the Ministry of Agriculture Circular (<https://www.tarimorman.gov.tr/DKMP/Haber/209/Tehlike-Arz-Eden-Hayvanlara-Iliskin-Genelge>), certain dog breeds are prohibited. The Tosa Inu, Dogo Argentino, Pitbull, Fila Brasileiro, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, and American Bully breeds and their crossbreeds are forbidden by law. (General Circular on Dangerous Animals No. 2021-48, dated 07.12.2021) (Law No. 7332 on Amendments to the Animal Protection Law and the Turkish Penal Code, published in the Official Gazette No. 31541 on 14.07.2021, came into effect. Under Article 5 of the mentioned law, by Article 14(1) of the Animal Protection Law No. 5199, It is prohibited to breed, own, rehome, shelter, feed, trade, display, gift, and facilitate entry into the country, sale, and advertising of animals deemed dangerous by the Ministry. Bringing any prohibited breed onto the campus is strictly forbidden. In case of bringing any banned breed onto the campus, the General Secretariat will immediately inform the relevant official authorities and initiate necessary actions to remove the forbidden breed from the campus.

Dog Behavior Rehabilitation: This involves addressing unwanted behaviors in dogs. It's the process of eliminating common behavior problems in puppies, young adolescents, and adopted dogs and instilling necessary behaviors for living harmoniously with other animals and humans in society.

Dog Training: A planned and structured program aimed at teaching dogs desired behaviors, equipping them with knowledge and skills that cater to the needs of both the dog and the human in their shared lives.

Dog Adoption: The process of integrating stray dogs into human life as family member by knowledgeable and conscious individuals who possess the sociological and psychological aptitude to live with them. This process is initiated after restoring the dog's health and conditioning it behaviorally to be suitable for coexistence with humans and other animals.

Article:4- Feeding Point and Feeding Method

Animals on campus will only be fed at 'Feeding Areas' designated by the Rectorate. Feeding activities outside these points will face administrative sanctions under the laws and regulations mentioned in the '**Legal Basis**' article.

Feeding activities will be carried out only by defined and trained volunteers. The Student Center selects feeding volunteers from applicants responding to announcements at the beginning of each academic year. Volunteers who complete their training will perform feeding activities in areas designated by the Rectorate. During official holidays and summer periods, feeding activities will be conducted by individuals appointed by the General Secretariat. If feeding volunteers fail to fulfill their duties twice in a row, the Student Center will appoint new volunteers.

Leftover food that does not harm animals and complies with environmental regulations will be collected and sorted in dining areas. Only foods suitable for animals will be distributed by volunteers once a day and only at feeding areas.

Handfeeding in all areas of the campus, including cafe dining halls, social facilities, in front of faculties and buildings, and parking areas, is prohibited. Hand feeding will only be allowed under expert supervision during rehabilitation and training practices.

It is forbidden to give food to animals in bags, paper, plastic, foam, or similar objects that may cause environmental pollution.

Feeding Points will be identified with signboards, and possible source protection behavior will be tried to be prevented.

The Yeditepe University Cleansing Affairs Directorate will conduct periodic cleaning and disinfection of Feeding Points.

Under no circumstances shall any student or employee under the Yeditepe identity or using the Yeditepe name to organize donation campaigns, including for food and treatment support for stray animals, nor collect in-kind or cash donations or announce or spread this on social media channels. Campaigns will be conducted through the Yeditepe University Revolving Fund Agency, with the approval of the Rectorate and by the Student Clubs and Activities Unit. According to the laws and regulations in the 'Legal Basis' article, administrative sanctions will be applied to those who do not comply with the ban.

Article:5- Spaying/Neutering

All animals on campus will be taken into record and will be spayed. All procedures will be carried out by expert teams with the approval of the Rectorate and coordination of the General Secretariat.

Article: 6 - Protection

New animal entries into the campus will be prevented; this measure will prevent pack formation and aggressive behavior affecting the campus's existing population.

Bringing animals from outside of the campus, leaving them alone, or to abandon is strictly forbidden. Administrative sanctions will be applied to those who exhibit this behavior under the laws mentioned in the 'Legal Basis' article.

Article: 7- Rehabilitation / Training / Adoption

Educational practices will be conducted to rehabilitate, train, and adopt animals suitable for living with humans on campus.

Adopting animals suitable for living with humans and who have completed their training will be encouraged. Search and rescue training trials will be conducted among the suitable ones.

At least twice each academic year, conferences and seminars will be organized throughout the campus to remind the rules of coexistence with living beings.

The Continued Education Center will coordinate certified training programs.

Article:8 - Procedures for Deceased Animals

Procedures related to deceased animals within campus boundaries will be carried out under the coordination of Yeditepe University General Secretariat. The nearest building administration and security point will be the first reporting center when a deceased animal is seen on campus.

Procedures must be carried out by campus hygiene and Occupational Health and Safety rules, wearing appropriate protective clothing and under hygienic conditions. Therefore, it is forbidden for students and employees to touch deceased animals, take them out of campus, or spend time near them.

Article:9- Safe Areas and Safe Times

Protective behavior of dogs towards their shelter and feeding areas and displaying territorial aggression against approaching threats are expected. This behavior can also be seen in dogs in packs.

Entering areas where animals reside and would want to protect during hours of darkness can trigger these behaviors. Therefore, walking around the campus, passing between buildings on foot during times of night, when the number of people decreases, and during the animals' resting hours can trigger aggressive behavior. Students and employees should preferably be in dormitories or the Information Center and study areas during these times.

Areas near Arboretum Road, forest road, mountain road, and close to campus borders are not designated as safe areas. Walking, sitting, and spending time in these areas means exposure to possible attacks. All students and employees should know about 'Safe Areas and Safe Time' on campus.

Validity

Article: 10- This Directive is valid as of the date of its approval by the Yeditepe University Senate.

Execution

Article 11- The Rectorate of Yeditepe University executes this directive.