

ZCLA PET POLICY

(adopted May 2017)

Introduction

ZCLA recognizes the importance of pets in the lives of individuals, families and community. We strive for a residential community with an environment that welcomes pets yet does not infringe upon those who do not have pets and does not create disharmony in the community.

While it is important to have clear rules and policies, this document cannot anticipate every situation and every circumstance or atmosphere. This policy should never be used as an excuse to avoid working directly with others. If you notice that someone is behaving contrary to the Pet Policy, please follow the Grievance Procedure and Statement of Right Conduct. The first step is approaching the person with whom you are in conflict and discussing the grievance face to face. Following that step, the Resident Steward and BHC are always available to help further the discussion and proceed towards an amenable solution. The BHC and the Resident Steward will also revisit the Pet Policy from time to time to make adjustments if situations have changed.

1. General Considerations

- a. Each pet owner is responsible to train and maintain their pet so it is a safe and well-behaved member of the ZCLA community. Permission to keep a pet in the community is conditional upon the resident's continued compliance with the terms of the ZCLA pet policy.
- b. New residents must apply to the BHC for pet considerations during the application process.
- c. Current residents must apply to the BHC before acquiring a pet. The BHC will then make a recommendation to the Temple Director.
- d. Any new pets will be interviewed by the BHC and approved by the BHC and the Temple Director.
- e. Pet owners assume full responsibility for their pets, including legal liability.
- f. Each apartment may not exceed a limit of 4 "large" animals (cats, dogs, etc.)
- g. If a resident moves out of ZCLA, they are required to take their pets with them. No exceptions.

2. Licenses, vaccinations and fleas

- a. Pet owners must comply with laws regarding licensing and vaccinations. Current vaccination certificates will be kept on file with the rental agreement in the office.
- b. According to LA Municipal Code, cats may roam outdoors and may go off their home property if they are spayed or neutered. ZCLA policy complies with the policies of LA Animal Services regarding spaying and neutering.
- c. Neutering/spaying and veterinary care are the responsibility of the pet owner.

d. Owners are responsible for regularly treating their pets for fleas.

3. Clean-up and curbing

- a. Pet cleanup and waste disposal for both dogs and cats is to be done by the owner, inside and outside of apartments.
- b. It is the responsibility of each dog owner to curb their dog in a responsible manner. Dog waste is to be immediately removed by the owner.

4. Dogs on/off leash

- a. When a new dog moves in, the BHC (and all ZCLA dog owners) will meet with the owners to discuss on/off leash topics and make recommendations, given the disposition of the dog, its training, etc. At the same time, arrangements will be made to have the new dog meet all the ZCLA dogs. Among the on/off leash topics to discuss are:
 - i. For the most part, please try to keep dogs on-leash when walked around ZCLA property.
 - ii. If an owner is 100% confident that their dog is under voice control and can demonstrate that to the BHC, that dog is allowed to be walked off-leash on campus. The BHC will be responsible for determining this in a discussion with the dog's owner and the other ZCLA dog owners.
 - iii. As a general rule, dogs should be walked outside ZCLA property. Special circumstances are to be treated on an individual basis.
 - iv. All dogs can be off-leash in the main yard for play time during these times:
 1. In the morning, up until 30 minutes before a scheduled public activity at ZCLA.
 2. In the afternoon/evening, after the gate has been closed. (i.e. after the end of public ZCLA activities.)
 3. Please note that off-leash play time is NOT allowed during sesshins.
 - v. Please try to avoid having a dog out in public space during scheduled activities. If a dog MUST pass through a public space during a program time, make sure to have the dog on-leash, whether they are under voice control or not. We try to respect that some of our members are very scared of even gentle or well-trained dogs.
 - vi. All residents should be aware of pets on the campus and drive carefully and slowly at all times. When pets are off-leash on the grounds, their safety is the responsibility of everyone: owners, who will keep track of their pets as best they can, and also drivers, who should maintain a slow and safe speed and be on the lookout for animals at all times. Animals at play can easily dart across the road without being seen by a driver.

5. Pet Deposit

- a. A pet deposit of \$200 is required when moving in and whenever a pet is acquired.

- b. It is the resident's responsibility to take care of damages and/or insect infestations caused by pets.
- c. If damages to the apartment due to pets exceeds the \$200, the rest will be deducted out of the security deposit.
- d. When a resident moves out and there is no damage to the apartment, the pet deposit will be returned to the resident.

6. Stray Animals

- a. In cases where stray dogs or cats are hanging around the Zen Center, residents are asked to discourage these animals from staying. Do not feed stray animals. Also, do not pet or engage in any other encouraging activities.

7. Other Considerations

- a. Pet food is not to be left outside where it can attract feral animals.
- b. Pets are not allowed in the ZCLA common buildings (Zendo, Sangha House, Dharma Hall, Buddha Hall or Laundry rooms)
- c. Pets (and their food, water, bedding, toys, etc.) cannot be kept in the common hallways of residential buildings.

8. The Pundarika and Nilotpala Courtyards

- a. All general Pet Policy rules apply to the courtyards of the apartment buildings. Pets should never be completely unattended in the courtyards and all pet waste should be removed immediately. That being said, as the courtyards are semi-private, there can be some flexibility in certain specific situations. If the pet owner would like permission to engage in a certain "non-policy" activity, they should present a proposal to all of the residents of said building and see what can be arranged. If appropriate, apartment building residents can meet as a group to discuss pet matters within their building.

9. Dogs during sesshin

- a. Sesshin can be a tricky time for dog owners, as the Zen Center is engaged in a full-day schedule that starts at around 5:15am each day and goes until around 9:30pm. Before sesshin starts, dog owners may want to consult with the Head Monitor to determine best play times and/or times to move through the campus with a dog. The Head Monitor may be able to offer some advice that would make negotiating the sesshin easier for the pet owner.
- b. Dogs should not be off-leash at any time during sesshin.

10. Pet-sitting

- a. To bring in a guest pet to the Zen Center, approval must first be obtained from the BHC and the Temple Director.
- b. If the resident has not previously paid a pet deposit and will be keeping the guest pet for more than two weeks, a \$200 deposit will be required. The deposit is refundable when the pet is returned to its owner if no damage was done to the apartment.
- c. Once approval is obtained an e-mail must be sent to the residents about the Guest pet.

d. All pet guidelines apply to pets visiting from outside.