

POLICY ON ANIMALS

WOODLAWN UNITED CHURCH
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*Then God commanded,
“Let the earth produce all kinds of animal life: domestic and wild, large and small” –
and it was done.
So God made them all, and God was pleased with what God saw.
~Genesis 1: 24-25*

*Whereas we, the council of Woodlawn United, accept that God created animals and they are an invaluable part of our created world,

*Whereas we acknowledge the importance of pets in the lives of many people in their role of companion,

*Whereas there are health and safety rules regarding animals and the preparation of food,

*Whereas we also acknowledge that allergies, fears, and aversion prevent some people from being able to enjoy animals,

*Whereas we acknowledge that Service Animals enrich the quality of lives, enhance the safety and independence of children and adults living with a medical condition or disability. *Service animals are animals specifically trained to provide assistance and perform tasks for persons with disabilities such as guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, assisting wheelchair users, sensing, alerting, and protecting a person who is having a seizure, providing support or balance, aiding someone with a cognitive or psychological disability by barking for help in an emergency, assisting a person with panic disorder in coping with crowds, or performing other special tasks. Service animals are working animals, not pets.*

Therefore it is the policy of Woodlawn United church that animals are not to be in the Brick Church Building or the Heritage Centre except under the following exceptions:

- During a special worship service that is for the blessing of animals.
- Service Animals are welcomed at any event that Woodlawn United church is hosting, including worship.
- The Council or ministerial team approves an exception for the purpose of a special situation.