MEMORANDUM

TO: SVM Faculty, Staff and Students

FROM: Mark D. Markel, Dean

SUBJECT: SVM Policy – Presence of Pets in SVM Buildings

Board of Regents Administrative Rule mandates that “the presence of dogs, cats, and other pets is prohibited in all university buildings and in arboretums at all times except as authorized by the chief administrative officer.” Consistant with that Rule, personal pets are prohibited in SVM buildings except in the UWVC and in designated research and teaching facilities.

This Board of Regents and SVM policy is important for several reasons. It avoids inadvertent exposure of both personal pets and personnel to illness or injury, an important point since dog bite injuries have been sustained by personnel in the past. We also have personnel who are allergic to various species, so we must minimize such exposure. Finally, custodial operations in SVM buildings are not staffed or designed to clean up after animals outside of the UWVC.

Research and Humane Society dogs or any dogs used for teaching purposes that must be exercised should be taken and returned to the second floor via the loading dock, NOT through the student lounge or front entry. This procedure is necessary to 1) minimize the exposure of these animals to possible infectious diseases; 2) minimize the potential for injury of faculty, staff, students and clients; and to 3) eliminate the soiling of public areas such as the student lounge, front entry, and outdoor patio.

In view of these concerns and Board of Regents rule, personal pets shall not be brought into School buildings at any time unless they are brought here as patients of the UWVC or as part of SVM instructional activities, approved in advance by the dean’s office. If they are UWVC patients, they should, like all clinic patients, be brought in through the main clinic entrance (small animal admissions); under no circumstances shall pets be taken to areas of the SVM other than the UWVC. Dogs brought into SVM buildings for approved purposes as described above must be on a leash and under the control of and accompanied by a person at all times. Service animals that have been specifically trained or are in the process of being trained to complete a specific task or service for an individual with disability are exempt from this policy. Service animals are protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990, as amended 2008).

Thank you for observing this policy.