



**DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR**

Date: April 6, 2018

To: All Priest on Official Assignment in the Diocese of Venice

Re: Pet/Animal Policy for all Priests on Official Assignment in the Diocese of Venice

From: Dr. Volodymyr Smeryk 

Due to the potential unpredictable behavior and the risk of bodily injury to visitors, employees, and volunteers at the locations of any of our Diocesan entities, priests are prohibited from having personal pets on Diocesan property, except as follows:

***Effective July 1, 2018, Clergy are allowed to keep pets only if they maintain the appropriate licenses and purchase personal liability insurance coverage through the Diocese, which will insulate the Diocese from any liability claims they cause. The pets must be restricted to clergy living quarters/residences. Animals may not be allowed in offices or areas where employees and visitors are present. Dogs are to be kept away from staff and visitors, and proper warnings posted according to appropriate city and county ordinances. Contractors and vendors on the property must also be advised of their presence in writing, and animals must be restrained while they are on the premises. Should an animal cause bodily injury to any person, it must be removed permanently from the property. Pets currently owned must be registered and insured by July 1, and newly acquired pets must be registered and insured within 7 days of acquisition. All pet coverage must be renewed annually on the original coverage effective date. (July 1 or acquisition date)***

To register your pet with the Diocese and purchase liability coverage, renew coverage or update pet information, please contact Donna Foti, Risk & Insurance Manager at [insurance@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:insurance@dioceseofvenice.org) OR [foti@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:foti@dioceseofvenice.org)

To register or renew, please email the following information to Donna Foti:

1. Pet Owner name
2. Pet Name, Age and Breed
3. Photo of Pet
4. Housing location of pet
5. Date animal acquired
6. Fee for annual liability coverage is \$100. per pet, please make check payable to Diocese of Venice and send to Catholic Center, 1000 Pinebrook Rd., Venice, FL 34285, Attn: Donna Foti.

Parish and school entities that are in violation of the Diocesan Pet/Animal Policy will be responsible for payment of any claims and their expenses that arise due to those violations. Please note that this coverage is for liability to others only. It does NOT cover damage to the premises that the animal may cause. Dangerous breed dogs may be denied coverage.

If there are any questions, please contact Donna Foti at 941-486-4732 or 941-484-9543.

Thank you.