



“Embrace the Possibilities”

USE OF ASSISTANCE ANIMALS IN ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

The University and if applicable, the appropriate affiliated entity that owns the housing, each recognizes that as a provider of on-campus student housing it has certain obligations with respect to animals that provide assistance to students with disabilities who live in such housing where pets are otherwise prohibited.

Assistance animals are sometimes referred to as support, therapy or comfort animals. An assistance animal is not a pet. The term “assistance animal” is intended to mean an animal that works, provides assistance, or performs tasks or services for the benefit of a person with a disability, or provides emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person’s disability.

Students with disabilities may request a reasonable accommodation to possess an assistance animal, including an emotional support animal. Requests for accommodations should be made with at least 30 days’ notice to the Office of Disability Services.

The Office of Disability Services with the assistance of the Student and Residence Life Office will evaluate a request for a reasonable accommodation to possess an assistance animal in a student housing unit based on:

- (a) Whether the student has a disability; and
- (b) Whether the student has a disability-related need for an assistance animal. In other words, does the animal work, provide assistance, perform tasks or services for the benefit of the student or provide emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person’s existing disability?

The request may be denied if the specific assistance animal in question poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others that cannot be reduced or eliminated by another reasonable accommodation or the specific assistance animal in question would cause substantial physical damage to the property of others that cannot be reduced or eliminated by another reasonable accommodation.

Students are required to submit reliable documentation of a disability and the disability-related need for the assistance animal. Students seeking an accommodation for an assistance animal that provides emotional support must provide documentation from a physician, psychiatrist, or other mental health professional that the animal provides emotional support that alleviates one or more of the identified symptoms or effects of an existing disability. Students will only be approved for one service animal.

Once approved, students are required to comply with the **following** rules intended to directly relate to the ongoing health, safety and welfare of the campus community:

- (a) Student must comply with state and local laws governing the vaccination, licensing, ownership and maintenance of the animal and agree to provide documentation of compliance upon request by the Student and Residence Life office.
- (b) Appropriate veterinarian care must be provided for the animal.
- (c) The animal must be healthy.

- (d) The student must be capable of controlling and must at all times control the animal.
- (e) The animal cannot be left unattended for inappropriate periods of time.
- (f) Animal waste must be disposed of so as not to create odor, damage or health risks.
- (g) The animal must stay in the student's unit, not in common areas except in the course of transit to or from the student's unit.
- (h) The animal cannot exhibit behaviors that create a nuisance or undue disruption.

Students who are assigned to roommates who do not want to share a room with an assistance animal may request a transfer, but the student being accommodated with not be required to move solely to accommodate another student's preference. However, where a student has medical issues that are precipitated by the assistance animal, the Student and Residence Life Office will attempt to reach a mutually beneficial solution that may involve either or both students relocating to another unit.

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