

Assistance Animals

An Assistance Animal provides emotional support, comfort, companionship or therapeutic benefits. A person qualifies for reasonable accommodation involving an Assistance Animal under the Fair Housing Act if:

(1) The person has a disability; (2) the animal is necessary to afford the person with a disability an equal opportunity to use and enjoy the residence halls; and (3) there is an identifiable relationship between the disability and the assistance the animal provides.

Assistance Animals are allowed generally within the residence halls, but not in other College buildings or college vehicles. The College will not, however, permit Assistance Animals in residence halls if they pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others; would cause substantial physical damage to the property of others; would pose an undue financial and administrative burden; or would fundamentally alter the nature of the College's operations.

Students planning to bring an Assistance Animal to campus must obtain approval from the Counseling Center and Accommodation Service (CAS) office by submitting a request to CAS at least 30 days in advance on a form obtained from CAS. CAS will ask the student about the student's disability and will ask for annual documentation from a physician, psychiatrist or other mental health professional that the animal provides support that alleviates symptoms of the disability.

See below for a description of the faculty, staff and student's responsibilities and the reasons for removal of Assistance Animals.

Requirements of Service Animals, Assistance Animals and their owners include:

The owner of the animal must be in full control of the animal at all times.

Animals must be licensed in accordance with city regulations and, if appropriate, must wear a valid vaccination tag.

Animals must be in good health. Any service/assistance animals occupying college housing must have an annual clean bill of health from a licensed veterinarian.

Service Animals should wear some type of easily recognized identification symbol (i.e., harness, backpack).

Students will provide documentation of the continuing need for the assistance animal on an annual basis.

The owner is responsible for appropriate waste clean-up and overall cleanliness of the animal.

The owner is responsible for the appropriate management of his or her animal in all College facilities. Disruptive and/or aggressive behavior on the part of the animal may result in the owner being asked to remove the animal from College facilities.

The owner is responsible for any property damage or personal injury caused by the animal, or pest control (i.e. flea treatment) required because of the animal.

Etiquette with Service Animals and Assistance Animals

Do not pet a Service Animal or Assistance Animal without permission of the owner; petting a Service Animal when the animal is working distracts the animal from the task at hand. Service dogs typically wear a leather harness, scarf or sign to indicate they are working animals.

Do not feed a Service Animal or Assistance Animal. The animal may have specific dietary requirements.

Do not deliberately startle a Service Animal or Assistance Animal.

Do not separate or attempt to separate an owner from her or his Service Animal or Assistance Animal.

Allow a service animal to accompany the owner at all times and everywhere on campus except where service animals are specifically prohibited. Assistance animals are not afforded this right, and may only be present in the student's housing if approved by CAS.