

OFFICE OF ACCESSIBILITY

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

ANIMAL GUIDELINES

DEFINITION

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), the Office of Accessibility at The University of Akron engages in an interactive and collaborative process with students in order to determine eligibility for reasonable accommodations, including the use of a service animal. Effective March 15, 2011,

“Service animal means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the handler’s disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to:

- assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks
- alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds
- providing non-violent protection or rescue work
- pulling a wheelchair
- assisting an individual during a seizure
- alerting individuals to the presence of allergens
- retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone
- providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities
- helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors.

The crime deterrent effects of an animal’s presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.”

	Service Animal	Emotional Support Animal	Pet
Definition	Service animal means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly	Emotional Support Animals or ESAs” are a category of animals that may provide a therapeutic benefit to its owner through companionship. The animal provides emotional support and comfort to individuals with a mental or psychiatric disability. An ESA alleviates one or	A Pet is an animal kept for ordinary use and companionship. A pet is not considered a Service Animal or an Emotional Support Animal.

	related to the handler's disability	more identified symptoms of an individual's disability, but are not considered Service Animals under the ADA. Some ESAs are professionally trained, but, in other cases, ESAs provide the necessary support to individuals with disabilities without any formal training or certification. Dogs or cats are commonly used as ESAs, but any animal may serve a person with a disability as an ESA.	
Covered under the ADA?	Yes	No	No
Covered under the FHA?	Yes	Yes	No
Types of animals allowed	Dogs, and in some cases, miniature horses	Any animal	Any animal
Allowable questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is this service animal required due to a disability? 2. What work or tasks is the animal trained to perform? 	Documentation provided by a medical professional that attests to the need for the animal in the residence halls will be required.	Pets are not permitted on campus.
Can the animal attend classes with the student?	Yes. The animal provides support for specific tasks related to a disability, and may go wherever the student goes.	No. The animal provides emotional support, but is not required for specific tasks related to the disability.	No. Pets are not permitted on campus.

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PLEASE NOTE: The request for an Emotional Support Animal (ESA) in the residence halls is a separate process. When requesting an ESA in the residence halls students are required to strictly follow the Guidelines for Documentation for Emotional Support Animals.

INQUIRIES

Federal law does not require the owner to provide documentation that the animal has been certified, trained or licensed as a service animal. The University may, however, ask if the animal is required because of a disability, as well as what work or task the animal has been trained to perform. An individual with a disability may be financially responsible for any damage caused by his or her animal beyond reasonable wear and tear to the same extent that it holds other individuals financially responsible for damages beyond reasonable wear and tear.

- Please feel free to contact The Office of Accessibility or the ADA Coordinator regarding these guidelines.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF OWNER

- Registering with the Office of Accessibility is recommended for the best interest of the student and the service animal.
- The University of Akron recommends keeping identification on the service animal, such as a harness, for the safety of the service animal and others.
- The University is not responsible for the care (including feeding and toileting) or supervision of a service animal. A service animal shall be under control of its handler. A service animal shall have a harness, leash or other tether, unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control (e.g., voice control, signals or other effective means).
- Individuals with disabilities are permitted to be accompanied by their service animals where members of the public, participants in services, programs or activities, or invitees, as relevant, are allowed to go. An individual with a disability may be asked to remove a service animal from the University if the animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it, or the animal is not housebroken. If necessary, the University reserves the right to remove the animal by any means deemed appropriate by University personnel.
- If the service animal is properly excluded, the individual with a disability has the opportunity to participate in the service, program or activity without having the service animal on the premises.

RESIDENCE HALLS

- If a student requires that a service animal live in campus housing, the student must notify the Office of Accessibility at the time the housing contract is submitted so that the University can best accommodate the student and the animal. At that time, a consultation will be arranged between the student and the Office of Residence Life and Housing to discuss how to best accommodate the student and the service animal, and the campus community.
- Students with service animals are not automatically assigned to a private room. Students with service animals will be matched with potential roommates to whom contact has been made to prevent possible incompatibilities such as allergies or other concerns. If a private room is requested and approved, the standard private room rate will apply.
- It is the student's responsibility to dispose of the service animal's waste in the proper external receptacle. If the disability prohibits the individual from picking up waste, they must find someone to assist with the disposal of waste. A specific exercise location and relief area for the service animal will be established near the assigned residence hall.
- There are not specific restrictions on animal weight and size in the dorm rooms, however **the animals required crate must be able to comfortably fit within the living space of the assigned room allowing for safe egress in case of an emergency.** The size of the crate must be appropriately sized for the animal. According to the Human Society, the animal's crate should be large enough for them to stand up and turn around in. If your animal is still growing, choose a crate size that will accommodate their adult size. **Further, City of Akron Code Chapter 92 has restrictions on animals and breeds that can be within city limits.**

- In addition, any damages caused by an animal (e.g., room furnishings, roommate belongings, common area, etc.) will be the responsibility of the owner contracted for University housing. The owner is financially responsible for all injury or damage to persons or property, including other animals, caused by their animal. The owner is required to clean up after and properly dispose of the animal's waste in a safe and sanitary manner and, when provided, must use animal relief areas designated by the University. An individual with a disability will be financially responsible for any damage caused by his or her animal beyond reasonable wear and tear to the same extent that it holds other individuals financially responsible for damages beyond reasonable wear and tear. The owner's living space may also be inspected for fleas, ticks or other pests if necessary as part of the University's standard or routine inspections. If fleas, ticks or other pests are detected through inspection, the owner will be billed for the expense of any pest treatment above and beyond standard pest management in the residence halls. **The University shall have the right to charge the owner's University student account for any unmet financial obligations to the University under this provision.**

OUT OF CLASSROOM EXPERIENCES

- There may be instances in internship/co-op/clinical experiences when the service animal may not be permitted to accompany the student. Though service animals can accompany their handler almost anywhere the handler goes, they may be excluded from areas where their presence would constitute a fundamental alteration, an undue burden, or a direct threat to safety.
- Examples of settings where service animals may be excluded include (but are not limited to): sterile environments (such as operating rooms, some ICU rooms, some delivery rooms), clean rooms where microchips are manufactured, places where food is prepared, and open air zoological exhibits.
- If the service animal is properly excluded, the individual with a disability has the opportunity to participate in the service, program or activity without having the service animal on the premises.
- Students are encouraged to contact the on-campus and on-site coordinator for the out of classroom experience to discuss any limitations the service animal may have on site.

TRAINING SERVICE ANIMALS

- Any individual training a service animal on campus must meet the requirements of **Ohio Revised Code § 955.43**.

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

- To help ensure appropriate response, these guidelines are being disseminated to The University Police and Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety Department.
- In the event of emergency evacuation, it is recommended for the owner to have a kennel or crate and a disaster kit including food and water for the service animal.
- During a disaster, animals will accompany their owners to the designated safe area.
- University of Akron and/or emergency responders are not responsible for the removal of the ESA in emergency situations.

GRIEVANCE

- The University of Akron has the sole discretion on safety matters related to service animals.

- In the event the owner does not comply with the owner's responsibilities set forth above, the University reserves the right to submit a referral to the Department of Student Conduct and Community Standards for disciplinary action as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct.
- The Office of Accessibility, Residence Life and Housing, and the ADA Coordinator are charged with investigating complaints of discrimination or harassment, including complaints regarding implementation of these guidelines in the residence halls. They place a strong emphasis on resolving complaints informally in a fair, prompt, and confidential manner. If the issue is not resolved, then formal procedures are available. For more information or to make a complaint, contact:

Office of Accessibility
Simmons Hall 105
Akron, Ohio 44325-6213
Phone: (330) 972-7928
TTY: (330) 972-5764
Email: access@uakron.edu
<http://www.uakron.edu/access/>

Human Resources ADA Coordinator
Administrative Services Building
185 East Mill St
Akron, Ohio 44325-4731
Phone: (330) 972-6716
Fax: (330) 972-2336
Email: mas49@uakron.edu
<http://www.uakron.edu/hr/hr-services/ada/index.dot>

Residence Life and Housing
Ritchie Hall
Akron, OH 44325-1401
Phone (330) 972-7800
Fax: (330) 972-5662
E-mail: reslife@uakron.edu
<https://www.uakron.edu/reslife/>

These guidelines were derived from the American with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-325), which became effective January 1, 2009.