

ALLOWING ANIMALS IN UNIVERSITY RESIDENCES

Procedures for Animals in University Residences

STN-U1600.03D

Authority

POL-U5620.04 Allowing Animals on University Property
POL-U1600.03 Accommodating Persons with Disabilities

See Also

STN-U1600.03A Standard: Allowing Animals as a Reasonable Accommodation in University Employment
STN-U1600.03B Standard: Student with Service Animals in Academic Settings
STN-U1600.03C Standards: Allowing Visitor's Service Animals

Purpose of Standards

University Residences is committed to supporting the University's educational purpose and mission, and works in partnership with the [Disability Access Center](#) (DAC) providing students access to all levels of the residential experience. While pets are not allowed in University Residences, animals classified as service animals (per the Americans with Disabilities Act as Amended) or emotional support animals (per the Fair Housing Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) are permitted. Campus residents with a service dog or emotional support animal must adhere to the required standards of behavior in this document, and to *POL-U5620.04: Allowing Animals on University Property*.

Definitions

Emotional Support Animal (ESA): Animals that provide emotional support to an individual, such as for companionship, depression, anxiety, and certain phobias, but do not have special training to perform tasks that assist people with disabilities. They are not considered service animals under the law and are defined as below. ESA's are also referred to as comfort or therapy animals.

Service Animal: An animal that is trained for the purpose of assisting or accommodating a sensory, mental, or physical disability of a person with a disability. Service animals are working animals, not pets.

Required Standards

Requesting an animal in University Housing is a three-part process.

PART ONE: Incoming or current residents requiring a service animal or an ESA must follow standard procedure for [requesting reasonable accommodation](#) through DRS.

PART TWO: If a student is bringing a service dog or if a student's ESA request has been approved by DRS both are noted in the placement tool; the student then contacts UR to set up an animal review by UR.

UR must be allowed a reasonable amount of time to respond to requests for assistance animal accommodation.

PART THREE: The resident meets with UR staff to discuss animal review and if approved, to review Conduct Expectations for handler and their animal. Note: UR may not permit animal if it believes the accommodation will pose a substantial or direct threat to the health or safety of the community, or if it presents an undue financial or administrative burden on UR.

Expectation

Failure to comply with the UR Housing Agreement, could result in conduct action, damage or cleaning fees, removal of animal from University Residences, and/or eviction of the handler.

1. Animal must not pose a threat to the health or safety of others, and the handler is responsible for any financial or contractual liability occurring as a result of animal's behavior.
2. The handler must be in compliance with [Bellingham Municipal Code](#) as it relates to the care and control of animal.
3. The handler must ensure animal has proper immunizations, licenses and any required veterinary documentation. UR has the right to request documentation relevant to these health and safety records at any time at which point documents must be produced.
4. The handler must be in compliance with the [Residential Community Standards](#) and will be held accountable for how animal impacts residents, staff, other animals and the facilities.
5. The handler must have animal under control at all times by means of a harness, leash or tether unless it interferes with animal's work, or it is not compatible with the owner's disability.
 - a. The handler may not leave animal in the care of another resident.
 - b. The handler may not leave animal unattended in their assigned room overnight.
 - c. The handler is responsible for providing a safe and secure barrier between animal and others who may enter the room when the handler is not present. This barrier is to be appropriately sized for both animal and room, and not restrict animal from healthy movement, access to nourishment, or expose animal to harm. UR recommends the owner consult with a veterinarian when choosing an appropriate barrier for animal.
 - d. The handler is responsible for understanding University personnel reserve the right to enter any residential room, with or without notice, for the purpose of health and safety, maintenance repair, facilities inspection, or other official business.
 - e. The handler of an ESA may only take animal in to residential buildings - where their Housing keys give them access.
6. Animal must be housebroken; otherwise it must be caged at all times. The handler is responsible for the proper, bagged disposal in appropriate, outside containers, of animal's waste. If the owner is physically unable to dispose of animal waste, they must make arrangements for someone capable of cleaning up after animal.
7. The handler is responsible for keeping their animal free from pests such as fleas, ticks, mites, etc.; and for any charges resulting from damage, cleaning or pest infestation.
8. Keeping, raising or using live feed of any kind (crickets, mice, etc.) is strictly prohibited.

9. Bathing animals in any sink, shower or tub located in UR is prohibited.
10. In the event of roommate conflict, required moves will be based upon the standard policy of using Housing Priority Date to determine who will be moved.
11. In the event of a complaint, the owner should contact WWU Equal Opportunity.