

SUU Emotional Support Animal (ESA)

Policy & Guidelines For Housing

Section I: Emotional Support Animal Procedures for Approval

Emotional Support Animals (ESA) may be permitted in Southern Utah University Housing on a case-by-case basis. Before bringing an ESA, the requesting student must contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) for an accommodation.

The review process takes time so please plan accordingly. Students should contact the DRC prior to bringing the animal into University Housing. This timeframe will allow for University Housing to collaborate with the DRC to make the appropriate accommodations.

Section II: Documentation for Emotional Support Animal

- A. Documentation must be provided to the DRC prior to bringing the animal to University Housing. The documentation guidelines are as follows:
 - 1. The Documentation must be provided by a qualified evaluator. A qualified evaluator is a medical or mental health professional licensed in the State of Utah or the Student's state of residence.
 - 2. The Documentation needs to be a Formal Letter prescribing the animal for the disability and documented as part of the treatment plan.
 - 3. The Documentation is verification of the individual's disability with evidence of existing and ongoing treatment.
 - 4. Documentation must be recent, within the year prior to bringing the animal to University Housing
- B. Documentation must also be provided for the animal which includes:
 - 1. Current Veterinarian records with vaccines and statement that the animal is healthy.
- C. If the animal is a canine, it must be registered with Cedar City. The student must provide the receipt.
- D. The DRC will determine if a qualifying disability exists upon meeting with the requesting student and reviewing the documentation. The ESA guidelines will be carefully reviewed at this time to ensure that the student can abide by all sections of SUU's ESA Guidelines. The DRC will then contact University Housing with the Students Name, T Number, and type of ESA for University Housing Records.
 - 1. The animal will be living in residence with the student and roommates. If one or more roommates do not approve of the ESA, then either the owner of the ESA or the non-approving roommate(s) may be moved to another location as determined by University Housing.

Section III. Responsibilities of Animal Owners in University Housing

1. The Owner is responsible for assuring that the approved ESA does not interfere with routine activities or cause difficulties for the residence and students who reside there.
2. The Owner is financially responsible for the actions of the approved ESA including bodily injury or property damage. The Owner's responsibility covers, but is not limited to, replacement of furniture, carpet, windows, wall coverings, and so forth. The Owner is expected to cover these costs at the time of repair and/or move-out.
3. The owner is responsible for any expenses incurred for cleaning and repairs to University Housing premises that are assessed after the student and ESA vacate the residence. The University shall have the right to bill the Owner's student account for unmet obligations.
4. The Owner's residence may be inspected for fleas, ticks, and other pests once a semester or as needed. The applicable housing office for the residence hall will schedule the inspection. If pests are detected, the residence will be treated using approved fumigation methods by a university approved pest control service. The Owner will be billed for the expense of any pest treatment.
5. ESA's must be contained within the privately assigned residential area at all times, except when transported outside the private residential area in an animal carrier or controlled by a leash or harness.
6. Approved ESA's may not be left overnight in University Housing to be cared for by another student. ESA's must be taken with the student if they leave campus for a prolonged period of time.
7. University Housing has the ability to relocate Owner and Approved ESA as necessary, according to current contractual agreements.
8. The Owner agrees to abide by all other residential policies. Reasonable accommodation, which may constitute an exception to a guideline(s) that otherwise would prohibit having an animal does not constitute an exception to any other guidelines.
9. Any violation of the rules may result in immediate removal of the ESA from the University and may be reviewed through University Housing, DRC, and Dean of Students. The Owner will be afforded all rights of due process and appeal as outlined in that process.
10. Should the approved ESA be removed from the premises for any reason, the owner is expected to fulfill their housing obligations for the remainder of the housing contract.

Section IV. Guideline for Maintaining an Approved ESA at SUU

A. Care and Supervision:

1. Care and supervision of the animal are the responsibility of the individual who benefits from the approved ESA's use.
2. The Owner is required to maintain control of the animal at all times.
3. When the Owner is not in the residential area, the animal should be stored in a crate or carrier. This will allow Housing Staff routine access to the residential facilities for maintenance and other routine tasks without posing risk to the animal.
4. The Owner is also responsible for ensuring the cleanup of the ESA's waste, and when appropriate, must toilet the animals in areas designated by the University. Indoor animal waste, such as cat litter, must be placed in a sturdy plastic bag and

securely tied up before being disposed of in the outside trash containers. Litter boxes should be placed on mats so that waste is not tracked onto carpeted surfaces.

B. Animal Health and Well-being

1. Vaccination: In accordance with local ordinances and regulations, the animal must be immunized against diseases common of that type of animal.
2. Health: The animal must be in good health. Animals to be housed in University Housing must have an annual clean bill of health from a licensed veterinarian. The University has authority to direct that the animal receive veterinary attention. ESA's when appropriate, must be spayed or neutered prior to being brought to campus. SUU reserves the right to request documentation of the applicable procedure.
3. Leash: If appropriate, the animal must be on a leash or harness.
4. Other Conditions: The DRC and University Housing may place other reasonable conditions or restrictions on the ESA depending on the nature and characteristics of the animal.

C. Requirements for Faculty, Staff, Students, and Other Members of the University

Member of the University Community are required to abide by the following practices:

1. They are not to touch or pet an ESA unless invited to do so.
2. They are not to feed an ESA.
3. They are not to deliberately startle, tease, or otherwise distract an ESA.
4. They are not to separate or attempt to separate an owner from their ESA.
5. They are not to inquire about details regarding a person's disability. The nature of a person's disability is a private matter.

D. Removal of an Approved ESA

The owner of an ESA may be asked to remove the animal from University facilities if the owner or ESA fail to comply with these guidelines. The following describes behaviors which may result in the removal of an ESA and is not meant to be an exhaustive list.

1. Disruptive Behavior: An animal may be removed if its behavior is unruly or disruptive (e.g. barking, jumping on people, growling, running around, and exhibiting aggressive behavior). If such behavior persists, the Owner may be prohibited from bringing the animal on campus until the owner takes significant and effective remedial steps to mitigate the animal's behavioral problems.
2. Uncleanliness: ESA's are required to be housebroken. Owners must also ensure that their animals are kept clean and well-groomed. Animals that are excessively unclean (e.g. repeated soiling of facilities, flea-infested, foul smelling, and/or excessive shedding) may be excluded from University facilities.

E. Damage:

Owners of Approved ESA's are solely responsible for any damage to persons or University property caused by their animals.

Southern Utah University is not responsible for loss, damage to, or death of the animal.

F. Areas Off Limits to ESA's

Due to the fact that Emotional Support Animals are not Service Animals, they are only permitted within residential housing. The animal may not accompany the student to class, library, dining service areas, fitness center, and other areas on campus.

ESA Breed/Type:

I have read and understand my responsibilities as an Emotional Support Animal Owner as outlined above. Should I fail in my responsibilities, I understand my approved accommodation may be suspended and/or I may be charged with a violation of student policies.

Student _____

Date _____

DRC Case Manager _____

Date _____

Housing Staff _____

Date _____