



Academic Affairs • Office of Student Accessibility Services  
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## **Assistance Animals**

### *Definition of an Assistance Animal*

“Assistance Animals” are animals that work, provide assistance, or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, or animals that provide emotional support which alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person’s disability. Some, but not all animals that assist persons with disabilities are professionally trained. Other Assistance Animals are trained by their owners. In some cases, no special training is required. The OSAS will determine whether or not the animal performs the assistance or provides the benefit need as a reasonable accommodation by the person with the disability. In general there are two types of Assistance Animals (Service Animals and Emotional Support Animals).

#### *Definition of a Service Animal:*

“Service Animal” has been individually trained to do work or performs tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. Service animals provide active support and can be with students in all public areas as well as their room and residence hall common area, with the possible exception of certain labs if protective gear is required.

#### *Definition of an Emotional Support Animal:*

“Emotional Support Animal” provides passive support and would only be permitted in the student’s room and the common areas of their residence hall.

Requirements for Faculty, Staff, Students, and Other Members of the Fisher College Community: Members of the College community are required to abide by the following practices:

#### *For Service Animals:*

- Allow a Service Animal to accompany its Owner at all times and in all places on campus, except where animals are specifically prohibited
- Do not touch or pet a Service Animal unless invited to do so
- Do not feed a Service Animal
- Do not deliberately startle a Service Animal
- Immediately report any disruptive behavior to the Fisher College Police Department
- Do not separate or attempt to separate an Owner from his/her Service Animal
- Do not inquire about the Owner's disability. The nature of a person's disability is a private matter. Any questions regarding Service Animals or their Owners should be directed to the OSAS

#### *For Emotional Support Animals:*

- Allow Emotional Support Animal in residence hall room and common areas
- Do not touch or pet a Support Animal unless invited to do so
- Do not feed a Support Animal
- Do not deliberately startle a Support Animal

- Immediately report any disruptive behavior to the Fisher College Police Department
- Do not separate or attempt to separate an Owner from his/her Animal
- Do not inquire about the Owner's disability. The nature of a person's disability is a private matter Any questions regarding Support Animals or their Owners should be directed to the OSAS

The following requirements must be met to ensure the Health and Well-being of an Assistance Animal:

- **Vaccination:** In accordance with local ordinances and regulations, the Assistance Animal must be immunized against diseases common to that type of animal. Dogs must have current vaccination against rabies and wear a rabies vaccination tag. Cats should have the normal shots required for a healthy animal. Local licensing requirements must be followed.
- **Health:** Assistance Animals must be in good health as documented annually by a licensed veterinarian. Documentation can be a vaccination certificate for the Assistance Animal or a veterinarian's statement regarding the animal's health. The College has authority to direct that the Assistance Animal receive veterinary attention. Local licensing laws must be followed.
- **Leash:** If appropriate, the Assistance Animal must be on a leash, unless the leash would inhibit the Assistance Animal's ability to be of service.
- **Other Conditions:** The OSAS may place other reasonable conditions or restrictions on the Assistance Animal depending on the nature and characteristics of the Assistance Animal.

*Procedures for Residence Students to Request Approval to Keep an Assistance Animal:*

A residence student requesting permission to keep an Assistance Animal in College housing and associated facilities must make a formal request to the College's Office of Student Accessibility Services. To do so, the residence student should submit the appropriate Housing Application Form as well as documentation of their disability to be reviewed by the Office of Student Accessibility Services.

The Housing Application form is available online on the Residential Life and Housing website which can be reached by going to: <http://www.fisher.edu/student-life/residential-life/how-to-apply/housingapplication>. The disability documentation is due to the Office of Student Accessibility Services no later than June 1st for new students and February 1st for returning students. While applications submitted after these dates will be accepted and considered, Fisher College cannot guarantee that it will be able to meet late applicants' accommodation needs, including any needs that develop during the semester.

*Documentation of the need for an Assistance Animal should follow the Office of Student Accessibility Services' guidelines for documentation of a disability, and should generally include the following information:*

- Statement from the student regarding the type of animal they wish to bring to campus and allow them to access college life that would not otherwise be possible without the animal. And a statement on how the need for the Assistance Animal relates to the ability of the student to succeed at the College
- Verification of the student's disability from a currently treating physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, licensed social worker, or other mental health professional regarding the following:
- Statement on how the Assistance Animal serves as an accommodation for the documented disability from a currently treating physician, psychiatrist, licensed social worker, or other mental health professional
- Current documentation of items requested must be dated within the **last 12 months**

The Office of Student Accessibility Services will review documentation and arrange a meeting with the student. **This policy will be carefully reviewed with the residence student at that time.**

If approved, the Office of Residence Life & Housing will make a reasonable effort to notify tenants in the residence building where the Assistance Animal will be located. Students with medical condition(s) who are

affected by animals (e.g., respiratory diseases, asthma, severe allergies) are asked to contact the Office of Student Accessibility Services if they have a health or safety related concern about exposure to an Assistance Animal. The College is prepared to also reasonably accommodate individuals with such medical conditions that require accommodation when living in proximity to Assistance Animals. The Office of Student Accessibility Services and the Office of Residence Life & Housing will resolve any conflict in a timely manner. Staff members will consider the conflicting needs and/or accommodations of all residence students involved.

Residence students, whose request for an Assistance Animal through this process is not granted, will have the opportunity to appeal such decisions.

A student with an approved Assistance Animal must review and sign an agreement regarding the guidelines for having an animal on campus and in the residence halls as applicable.