

Salisbury University

Animals on Campus Policy

I. POLICY STATEMENT

Salisbury University ("University") does not permit animals in University buildings or facilities, except as described in this policy ("Policy"). The University is committed to creating and maintaining a welcoming and inclusive educational, working and living environment for people of all abilities. Accordingly, the University allows animals in its buildings or facilities when they are serving a University approved purpose or meet the definition of Service Animal or Assistance Animal in this Policy.

II. PURPOSE

This purpose of this Policy is to provide information, guidance and procedures for individuals who have a disability-related need for a service or assistance animal as a reasonable accommodation in University facilities and other animals approved for a University purpose.

A. Service Animals

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Fair Housing Act of 1968, the University permits Service Animals of individuals with a disability to enter University buildings or facilities so long as they meet the guidelines set forth in this Policy. Service Animal is not restricted to certain rooms or areas but may instead live and work in any campus building to which its Owner has access.

B. Assistance Animals

Consistent with applicable laws, the University allows Assistance Animals to enter University housing if they are an approved accommodation for a student with a disability. Assistance Animals and their Owners must also follow the guidelines set forth in this Policy. The University may withdraw approval for the continued presence of an Assistance Animal and order its removal from a campus building or location if conditions change and the owner is no longer eligible for the accommodation or for the reasons described below.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. *Assistance Animal*: also known as “support animal”, “emotional assistance animal”, “companion animal” or “therapy animal”). An Assistance Animal is an animal that works, provides

disabilities by signaling behaviors (such as interrupting repetitive or injurious behavior and guiding the individual from stressful situations).

- F. *Service Animal in Training* is a dog (or miniature horse) being trained to become a Service Animal. Service Animals in Training enjoy the same rights as Service Animals. They and their Owners must adhere to the same rules, policies, and procedures as Service Animals
- G. *University Housing* is student housing owned and operated by the University. It does not include University Park.
- H. *University Property* is property, occupied or vacant, that is owned, leased, operated by, or controlled by the University.

IV. PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING AN ASSISTANCE ANIMAL

- A. Assistance Animals are allowed in University Housing only and must be approved by the University prior to bringing the Assistance Animal onto University Property.
- B. The student must register their request for an Assistance Animal with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) (located in the Guernsey Student Union) *See, Assistance*

- F. The Owner must notify the DRC in writing if the Assistance Animal is no longer needed or is no longer living with the Owner. To replace an Assistance Animal or request a different animal, the Owner must file a new request pursuant to the DRC procedures.
- G. DRC may consider the size of the crate/cage that is needed for the animal to be contained while the student is not in the room in deciding whether to approve the request
- H. The University may rescind approval of the continued presence of an Assistance Animal and order its removal from campus if conditions change and/or the Owner is no longer eligible for the accommodation.

V. MAINTAINING APPROVED ASSISTANCE ANIMALS

A. Animal Health and Well-Being:

1. Vaccinations: in accordance with state and local laws and regulations. Assistance Animals must be vaccinated, and continue to be vaccinated, by a licensed veterinarian (or by a graduate veterinarian at the Wicomico County Health department). Dogs, cats, and ferrets must have current vaccinations against rabies and the Owner must possess proof of such vaccination. Wicomico County requires that dogs older than six months must have a license and wear a tag on their collars at all times with a few exceptions that include but are not limited to: when it is confined in a kennel, home or building providing secure confinement. The Owner must provide HRL (Housing & Residence Life) with documentation confirming that their Assistance Animal has been vaccinated annually prior to their designated move-in dates.
2. Health: An Assistance Animal, housed in University Housing, must have an annual clean bill of health from a licensed veterinarian. The University will accept a vaccination certificate for the Assistance Animal or a veterinarian's statement regarding the Assistance Animal's health.
3. Licensing: The University reserves the right to request documentation showing the Assistance Animal has been licensed pursuant to Wicomico County laws and regulations (dogs only).
4. Transporting the Assistance Animal to and from the assigned Residence: The Assistance Animal must be on a leash, crated, or secured in an appropriate travel unit when the Assistance Animal is being transported within and outside of the Residence.

5. Other Conditions:

- a. HRL may place additional reasonable conditions or restrictions on an Assistance Animal, depending on its nature and characteristics.
- b. Assistance Animal are permitted in University residences only and must be contained within the Owner's assigned living accommodations, except to the extent the Owner is taking the animal out for natural relief or transporting the animal on or off campus.
- c. Assistance Animals are not permitted in other areas of the University (dining facilities, libraries, academic buildings, athletic buildings and facilities, classrooms, labs, etc.) without prior authorization from the DRC.

VI. PROCEDURES REGARDING SERVICE ANIMALS

- A. A Service Animal may accompany its Owner at all times and everywhere on University grounds, where members of the public, program participants, clients, customers, patrons, or invitees are allowed to go, and the Service Animal is permitted in the Owner's University residence.
- B. A Service Animal does not have to be licensed or certified by state or local government or any other training programs and does not need to wear special identification. If a Service Animal is not tagged with identification, or it is not readily apparent that the Service Animal is trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of the individual, a University official may make only limited inquiries. The University may ask (1) if the animal is required because of a Disability; and (2) what work or task the animal has been trained to perform.
- C. The University does not require documentation, such as proof that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a Service Animal.
- D. The University will not ask for or require an individual with a disability pay any fees or surcharges for an approved Service Animal, except for fees related to damages as set forth in this Policy.
- E. An individual with a Disability may be permitted to be accompanied by his or her
the owner is permitted to be accompanied by his or her Seq4(r)3(v(c)3.e)e-6()4(A)2(ni)-2(m)-2(

- F. If the University properly excludes a Service Animal under this Policy, it shall give the individual with a Disability the opportunity to obtain goods, services, and accommodations without having the Service Animal on the premises.
- G. A Service Animal must be under the control of its Owner at all times. A Service Animal must have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless the Owner 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 task, in which case the Service Animal must be otherwise under the Owner's control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means). The University may ban a Service Animal or require its removal from a campus building or location if the Owner fails to keep the Service Animal under control. If the uncontrollable behavior happens repeatedly, the Owner may be prohibited from bringing the Service Animal into any University facility until the Owner demonstrates specific and effective steps taken to mitigate the behavior.
- H. The University may ban or remove a Service Animal if the animal's behavior or condition constitutes or is reasonably likely to constitute a direct threat to the University or a member of the University Community. A Service Animal is considered a direct threat if it exhibits behavior or has a condition observed to be aggressive, violent, and/or hazardous to the health or safety of individuals. Examples include, but are not limited to, growling/aggressive posturing, biting/nipping/kicking, or having fleas/ticks

VII. CONFLICTING HEALTH CONDITIONS

Students with medical conditions that are affected by animals (e.g., respiratory diseases, asthma, severe allergies, etc.) should contact the DRC if they have health or safety concerns about exposure to an Assistance Animal or Service Animal. The University may reasonably accommodate students with such medical conditions who live in proximity to an Assistance Animal or Service Animal.

VIII. RESPONSIBILITIES OF OWNERS OF SERVICE ANIMALS AND ASSISTANCE ANIMALS IN UNIVERSITY HOUSING

- A. The Owner is responsible for ensuring that the Assistance Animal or Service Animal does not unduly interfere with the routine activities of the Owner's assigned residential building or cause disturbances for other students who reside there.
- B. The Owner is financially responsible for the actions of the Assistance Animal or Service Animal including bodily injury or property damage, with the Owner's Residence and on all University Property. The Owner's responsibility includes, but is not limited to, replacement of furniture, carpets, windows, wall coverings and the personal property of other students/faculty and staff. The Owner is expected to pay such costs, which may be added to the Owner's student account.

comply” under the University’s Student Code of Community Standards which may result in a student conduct proceeding deemed appropriate for the situation.

2. Should the Service Animal or Assistance Animal be removed from the premises for any reason, the Owner is expected to fulfil

APPENDIX A

Assistance Animal Registration Form

Include or attach a picture of the Assistance Animal.

Owner's Name: _____

Owner's Student ID Number: _____

Owner's Address: _____

Owner's Phone Number: _____

Approved Animal's Name: _____

Type of Animal: _____

Physical Description of Approved Animal: _____

Name of alternate caregiver who ~~oes~~ not live in University Housing ("Alternate Caregiver")

Address of Alternate Caregiver: _____

Phone Number for Alternate Caregiver: _____

Attach the veterinarian's verification that the Assistance Animal has all veterinary-

APPENDIX B

**Reasonable Accommodation Verification Form for an Assistance Animal
(Optional)**

Student's Name: _____ ID#: _____

Proposed Assistance Animal:

Name: _____ Type of animal: _____ Age of animal: _____

The abovenamedstudent has indicated that you are licensed health care professional (e.g., physician, optometrist, psychiatrist, psychologist, physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, or nurse) who has suggested that having Assistance Animal in University Housing will be helpful in alleviating one or more of the identified symptoms or effects of the student's disability that Disability Resource Center staff may better evaluate the request for this accommodation, please answer the following questions:

Information about the Student's Disability

The Fair Housing Act defines disability as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Under this definition, an impairment is a disability if it substantially one0 Td () 7

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form. If Disability Resource Center staff need additional information, we may contact you at a later date. We recognize that having an Assistance Animal in the residence hall can be a real benefit for someone with a significant health disorder, but the practical limitations of our housing arrangements make it necessary to carefully consider the impact of the request for an Assistance Animal on both the student and the campus community.

Please provide contact information, sign and date this form (below), and return it to:

Disability Resource Center
Salisbury University
1101 Camden Avenue
Salisbury MD, 21801
Email: disabilityservices@salisbury.edu
Phone: 410-548-6087
Fax: 410-548-4052

Contact information:

Address:

Telephone:

FAX and/or Email address:

Professional Signature:

Professional Title/Field:

License #:

Date:



Alternative Caregiver Name: _____

Phone#: _____

Email address:

Physical Address:
