

Support Animals: Owners' Rights & Responsibilities

A student who is approved for a Support Animal will be required to meet with DRS staff to review and agree to the following requirements. Failure to follow these requirements may result in the University requesting the removal of the Support Animal from University housing.

A Support Animal Owner is defined as having acquired ownership of an animal for the use of symptom management of a disability. A support animal is not:

- A fostered animal, and/or
- An animal for which you are not the primary caretaker.

A Support Animal must be contained within the privately assigned student living accommodation (room, suite, or apartment), except to the extent the student is taking the animal out for natural relief. When a Support Animal is outside of the student's private living accommodation, the animal must be either controlled by a leash or harness or contained in an animal carrier. A Support Animal is not permitted in other non-public areas of the University without prior approval through the reasonable accommodation process administered through Disability Resources and Services.

Student's Responsibilities as the Animal Owner

- The student is responsible for the behavior of the animal at all times while on University property.
- The student will provide DRS with a photograph of the animal.
- Where the animal is of a type that can wear a collar, such animal shall wear a collar with basic identification information at all times.
- Students will be issued an animal ID by Panther Central to facilitate access into University housing. The student will be responsible for keeping their animal's ID on their person when they enter and exit University housing. If the ID is lost or stolen, you must notify Panther Central as soon as possible for a replacement. There may be additional fees associated with replacing lost or stolen cards.
- The student must abide by current city, county, and state ordinances, laws, and/or regulations pertaining to licensing, vaccination, and other requirements for animals. The student must know and understand these ordinances, laws, and regulations.

The University has the right to require reasonable documentation of compliance with such ordinances, laws, and/or regulations, which may include a vaccination certificate or a veterinarian's statement regarding the animal's health. The University reserves the right to make reasonable requests for documentation showing that the animal meets these requirements.

- The student is required to immediately clean up after and properly dispose of the animal's feces in a safe and sanitary manner. If the animal is a dog, the dog must be housebroken, and kennel trained.
- In the case of an emergency, the University is not responsible for evacuating the animal. The student is responsible for providing DRS with an emergency contact for the animal that does not reside in University housing.
- The student's living accommodation must be kept reasonably clean and free of animal odors.
- The student is financially responsible for any and all costs associated with the care, maintenance and removal of the animal. This includes any costs of damage to University property caused by the animal, including but not limited to cleaning and repairs beyond reasonable wear and tear, and pest control. The University shall have the right to bill the student's account for unmet obligations under this provision.
- The student is responsible for maintaining control of the animal at all times. If an animal causes a threat to the health or safety of others, the student shall immediately take steps to maintain or control the animal (e.g., keeping the animal in a secure enclosure). In the event the student cannot control the animal's behavior, the student shall remove the animal from the area.
- The student agrees to abide by all equally applicable policies that are unrelated to the student's disability such as assuring that the animal does not unduly interfere with the routine activities of the residence or cause unreasonable difficulties for other students residing in University housing. If an animal's behavior creates a significant disturbance to University operations (for example, through excessive barking or other similar behavior), the student shall immediately take steps to maintain or control the animal. In the event the student cannot control the animal's behavior, the student shall remove the animal from the area.
- The Support Animal is permitted in University housing only as long as it is necessary due to the student's disability. The student must notify the University, in writing, if

the animal is no longer needed or is no longer in residence. To replace an animal, the student must submit a new request to demonstrate that the new animal is necessary due to the student's disability.

- A material violation of the responsibilities described above may result in a written warning. If the student receives more than one written warning in an academic calendar year, the student may be required to re-engage in the interactive process with DRS to discuss the violations and whether an alternative accommodation may be effective in meeting the individual's disability-related needs. Repeated material violations or severe violations may result in one or more of the following: removal of the animal from campus; banning of the animal from all or part of campus; and disciplinary action against the student in accordance with other applicable University policies.
- Students found to be falsely characterizing their animal as a Service Animal or Support Animal may be subject to discipline in accordance with other applicable University policies.
- University employees with responsibility for maintaining or controlling a specific area of campus may ask a handler whether the animal is a pet, Support Animal, or Service Animal, unless the need for the Service Animal is readily apparent, and the student must respond to same.

Student's Rights as the Animal Owner

- The University may not ask for or require a student with a disability to pay a surcharge or comply with other requirements generally not applicable to students without animals.
- A student with a disability may submit a request for a Support Animal in University housing at any time. The University must consider this request, even if the school year is already in session and/or the student has already brought the animal into University housing.
- The student is not required to equip a Service Animal or Support Animal with a vest or other item identifying it as such.
- While the interactive process is necessarily an open exchange of information, the University may not require the student to disclose details about their diagnosis, the severity of their disability, or medical records. The University may not require a medical examination.

- The University may not insist on specific types of evidence if the information provided to the University meets the requirements of the University's policy with respect to Support Animals, as set forth in the Guideline's regarding Animals on University Property.
- In the event the University determines that the information provided to the University is insufficient to confirm a student's disability or disability-related need for a Support Animal, the University will provide the student with an opportunity to continue the "interactive process," including by discussing the reasons for the denial, by discussing alternative accommodations, and/or by allowing the student to supplement the information provided.
- The University will not deny a reasonable request for a Support Animal because the request would impose a fundamental alteration to the nature of the University's operations or impose an undue financial and administrative burden on the University, without first engaging in an interactive process with the student to discuss whether an alternative accommodation may be effective in meeting the student's disability-related needs.
- In the event the University determines that a student is not eligible or is no longer eligible for a Support Animal, or the specific Support Animal requested, the University will provide the student written notification of the reasons for this denial. The University will provide written notification of the grievance procedures that the student may use to challenge this denial.