OFFICE OF ACCESSIBILITY
THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON
ASSISTANCE ANIMAL GUIDELINES

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), the Office of Accessibility at The University of Akron engages in an interactive and collaborative process with students in order to determine eligibility for reasonable accommodations, including the use of an assistance animal.

DEFINITION

<table>
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<th>Service Animal</th>
<th>Assistance Animal</th>
<th>Pet</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Definition</strong></td>
<td>Service animal means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the handler’s disability.</td>
<td>Assistance animals are any animal used in the treatment of a diagnosed condition. An assistance animal may provide physical assistance, emotional support, calming, stability, and other kinds of assistance. There must be a relationship between the person’s condition and the therapy/support the animal provides.</td>
<td>A Pet is an animal kept for ordinary use and companionship. A pet is not considered a Service Animal or an Assistance Animal.</td>
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| **Covered under the ADA?** | Yes                                                                                       | No                                                                                       | No                                                                 |
| **Covered under the FHA?** | Yes                                                                                       | Yes                                                                                       | No                                                                 |
| **Types of animals allowed** | Dogs, and in some cases, miniature horses                                                | Any animal                                                                              | Any animal                                                          |
| **Allowable questions**    | 1. Is this service animal required due to a disability?  
2. What work or tasks is the animal trained to perform? | Documentation provided by a medical professional that attests to the need for the animal in the Residence Halls may be requested. | Pets are not permitted on campus.                                  |
| **Can the animal attend classes with the student?** | Yes. The animal provides support for specific tasks related to a disability, and may go wherever the student goes. | No. The animal provides emotional support, but is not required for specific tasks related to the disability. | No. Pets are not permitted on campus. |

*adapted from Disability Compliance for Higher Education, a 2013 Wiley Periodicals, Inc. Copyright. Vol 18, Iss 7

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REQUESTING ASSISTANCE ANIMALS IN THE RESIDENCE HALLS

- If a student desires that an assistance animal live in campus housing, the student must notify the Office of Accessibility at the time the housing contract is submitted, so that the University can best accommodate the student and the animal. Please note that services will NOT be denied if requests are made after this time, but they may take significantly longer to implement.

- Students who wish to utilize disability-related housing accommodations should have an appropriate treating professional complete the Disability-Related Housing Accommodations Request Form. Return the completed form to the Office of Accessibility; the form can be found at http://www.uakron.edu/access/students/housing/.

- Students with assistance animals are not automatically assigned to a private room. Students with assistance animals will be matched with potential roommates to whom contact has been made to prevent possible incompatibilities such as allergies or other concerns. If a private room is requested and approved, the standard private room rate will apply.

- A specific exercise location and relief area for the service animal will be established near the assigned residence hall. In addition, any damages caused by a service animal (e.g., room furnishings, roommate belongings, common area, etc.) will be the responsibility of the owner contracted for University housing.

- It is the student’s responsibility to dispose of the service animal’s waste in the proper receptacle external to the residence hall. If the disability prohibits the individual from picking up waste, they should find someone to assist with the disposal of waste.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF OWNER

- Registering with the Office of Accessibility is recommended for the best interest of the student and the assistance animal, but is not required

- The University of Akron recommends keeping identification on the assistance animal, such as a harness, for the safety of the assistance animal and others.

- The University is not responsible for the care (including feeding, toileting, cleanliness and proper disposal) or supervision of an assistance animal. An assistance animal shall be under control of its handler. An assistance animal shall have a harness, leash or other tether, unless either the handler 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 assistance animal’s safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the assistance animal must be otherwise under the handler’s control (e.g., voice control, signals or other effective means).

- The student is responsible for assuring that the assistance animal does not unduly interfere with the routine activities of the residence or cause difficulties for students who reside there.

- The student is financially responsible for the actions of the assistance animal, including bodily injury or property damage. The student’s responsibility covers but is not limited to: replacement of furniture, carpet, window, wall covering, and the like. The student is expected to cover these costs at the time of repair and/or move-out.

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• Assistance animals must be contained within the privately assigned residential area (room, suite, apartment) at all times, except when transported outside the private residential area in an animal carrier or controlled by leash or harness.

• Assistance animals may not be left overnight in University Housing to be cared for by another student. Animals must be taken with the student if they leave campus for a prolonged period.

• The student is still required to follow all Residence Life and Housing policies and procedures for living in the Residence Halls.

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

• To help ensure appropriate response, these guidelines are being disseminated to The University Police and Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety Department.

• In the event of emergency evacuations it is recommended for the owner to have a kennel or crate and a disaster kit including food and water for the assistance animal.

• During a disaster, assistance animals will accompany their owners to the designated safe area.

GRIEVANCE

• The University of Akron has the sole discretion on safety matters related to assistance animals.

• The Office of Accessibility is charged with investigating complaints regarding implementation of these guidelines. The office places a strong emphasis on resolving complaints informally in a fair, prompt, and confidential manner. If the issue is not resolved, then formal procedures are available. For more information or to make a complaint, contact:

  Office of Accessibility  
  Simmons Hall 105  
  Akron, Ohio 44325-6213  
  Phone: (330) 972-7928  
  TTY: (330) 972-5764  
  Email: access@uakron.edu  
  Website: http://www.uakron.edu/access/

*These guidelines were derived from the American with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-325), which became effective January 1, 2009.*