

## Animal Guidelines and Expectations

Below are specific requirements and guidelines that must be adhered to in order for a Service or Emotional Support Animal to be a reasonable accommodation within University Housing. The University reserves the right to amend these guidelines and expectations as needed in its sole discretion.

### **Section I: Standards for Animals within Residence Halls**

Residents approved for a Service Animal (SA) or Emotional Support Animal (ESA) within University housing must comply with all applicable University policies and local, state and federal laws regarding animals and their treatment and care including, but not limited to, the following::

- [Town of Boone, NC Code of Ordinances](#)
- [Watauga County Animal Care and Control Ordinance](#)
- University Policy # 303.24, [Animals on Campus](#)
- The resident may only keep an approved animal; no substitutions or additions are permitted without re-applying for approval of a new animal.
- ESA are approved for specific residence hall rooms.
- University Housing has the ability to relocate a resident and approved animal as necessary according to current contractual agreements.

#### *1. Canine/Feline*

- a. Must submit a Vet Certification which confirms:
  - a. Immunizations are current,
  - b. Current rabies vaccination, and
  - c. Animal has been spayed or neutered.

#### *2. Other Animals*

- a. Determinations are made on an individual case-by-case basis.
- b. Verification of an annual clean bill of health from a licensed veterinarian confirming the animal is free from communicable diseases. Required immunizations will be determined pursuant to guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

### **Section II: Standards of Behavior by Animal and Owner**

#### 1. Health and care standards must be maintained as follows:

- a. The owner is solely responsible for the animal's well-being including, but not limited to, regular feeding, watering, bathing, grooming, daily care and veterinary services.
- b. The owner must take the animal with them, or make arrangements for the animal to be cared for off campus if the owner is away. Animals cannot be left in room/apartment alone or in someone else's care overnight at any time.
- c. Collars and tags must be worn at all times.

#### 2. Sanitary standards must be maintained as follows:

- a. Animal must be fully housebroken and trained not to relieve itself indoors or litterbox trained.

- b. The owner is solely responsible for immediate, proper animal clean up.
  - a. Feces must be removed from University grounds by securing waste in a plastic bag, and placing it in the outside garbage dumpster. Animal feces may not be disposed of in any trash receptacle or through the sewer system inside any building.
  - b. Litter boxes must be properly maintained and remain within the owner's assigned residence hall room or apartment bedroom. Litter box contents must be disposed of properly and regularly, and litter changed regularly as outlined by the manufacturer. To protect floors, litter boxes should be placed on mats that are large enough for the animal to walk off after using the litter box and catch any spilled litter.
- c. The owner is solely responsible for regular and routine cleaning of floors, kennels, crates and cages. An odor of an animal emanating from the residence is not acceptable.
- d. Bathing of the animal must occur off campus.
- e. Any flea, tick or other pest infestation will be remedied at the owner's expense. University Housing will make appropriate arrangements for extermination with applicable costs charged to the owner's student account. Animal owners are encouraged to take precautionary measures such as: flea and tick medications as prescribed by a veterinarian, flea and tick prevention collars, and/or regular bathing with flea and tick shampoos.

### 3. Safety and Behavior Expectations

- a. Animals must possess friendly and sociable characteristics.
- b. The owner of the animal is solely responsible for:
  - a. any damage to persons or property caused by the animal, including damage to the property of other residents. All liability for the actions of the animal are the responsibility of the owner. Owners should consider appropriate liability insurance.
  - b. the animal during a fire alarm, fire drill, natural disaster, or emergency situations requiring building evacuation.
- c. Animals must not be disruptive to the campus community (i.e., excessive barking, growling, howling, squawking, etc.).
- d. ESAs must be caged or crated when the owner is not in the room/apartment.
- e. The owner must disclose the animal's presence if University personnel must enter the room in the performance of their duties to ensure that such individuals are aware that there is an animal present and the animal must be crated or caged during the visit. The University is not liable if an animal escapes during one of these visits.
- f. The lobby, stairwells and other public areas may be used by ESAs as a pass-through only, as these are public areas, and the animal must be leashed, caged or tethered while in these areas.

### Section III: Cleaning and Damage

1. Per the University Housing License Contract, it is the resident's responsibility to maintain the condition of the space, flooring, and furniture. The resident must return the room, flooring and furniture, in the same condition it was in at the time of move-in. The resident/animal owner is solely responsible for any damage to University property caused by the animal. This shall include the repair or replacement of any furniture, and any cleaning beyond what is routinely done for any room at the time of vacating. This may include, but is not limited to, extra steam cleaning of all floors, furniture and other fabrics, the abatement of fleas and other pests, and deodorization of the space. Charges will be posted on the resident/animal owner's student account.

2. At the termination of the University Housing License Contract, or when the animal is no longer in the space, the residence hall room or apartment will be assessed to determine if damage was caused to property by the

animal. University Housing reserves the right to inspect the space more frequently if damage is suspected or if there are concerns related to the owner's compliance with any of the items identified in this document.

#### **Section IV: Violations**

Concerns related to an approved ESA or SA should be reported to Residence Hall Staff.

Any allegations of violations to standards and guidelines related to an approved ESA or SA will be addressed in accordance with student conduct processes. University Housing and the Office of Disability Resources will work collaboratively to determine appropriate sanctions.