



Emotional Support Animal Policy and Procedures

In accordance with the Fair Housing Act (FHA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, a student with a disability may be allowed to live with their emotional support animal (ESA) in AMDA housing. For the purposes of this policy, an ESA is defined as a domesticated animal that provides therapeutic support and comfort to an individual with a disability. Unlike service animals, ESAs are not trained to perform work or assist with daily living tasks, and do not accompany their owners at all times. They are therefore permitted only in the individual's assigned room and designated spaces. They are not permitted in other campus buildings and spaces.

Rules and Procedures for Keeping an ESA in AMDA Housing

According to the FHA, an individual may keep an ESA in their residence if:

1. The individual has a disability;
2. The animal is necessary to afford the individual an equal opportunity to utilize campus housing; and
3. There is a direct, identifiable relationship between the disability and the assistance the animal provides.

For an ESA request to be considered, you must first register with the Accessibility Services Office. At your intake appointment, in order to begin the process of requesting an ESA, the office will require medical documentation from your treatment provider that includes the following information:

- The name of the disability
- How diagnosis of the disability was established
- Expected severity and longevity of the disability
- Functional impairments resulting from the disability in an academic, residential, and/or general campus setting
- A statement identifying how the ESA serves as an accommodation for the disability and a description of the support the ESA will provide
- A statement on how the need for the ESA relates to the individual's ability to use on-campus housing



The office will also require a health statement for your ESA, including a current vaccination record, from your veterinarian. This will need to be renewed on an annual basis.

At the intake appointment, the Accessibility Services Coordinator will go over your documentation with you and speak with you about your individual situation and needs. Then, Accessibility Services will work with Residential Life so that you can be assigned to a room that meets your needs as a student with an ESA. Residential Life will then contact you to discuss your assignment and have you fill out a contract outlining your responsibilities as a resident with an ESA.

In order to provide us with sufficient time to carry out this process and prepare a room, you must initiate this process at least 30 days in advance of the proposed date of move-in for your ESA.

You must renew your request and sign a new contract each semester.

Your Responsibilities as an ESA Owner

You are expected to be in control of your ESA's behavior. This requires you to have an established relationship with your ESA prior to your arrival at AMDA.

You are expected to take care of your ESA, including feeding, grooming, exercise, flea and tick removal, and companionship.

You must promptly remove and clean up after your ESA's waste.

You may not leave your ESA in your residence overnight without you.

Your ESA may not interfere with the ability of your roommate(s) to live in and enjoy their space.

If any of these responsibilities are not met - or if your ESA is posing a direct threat to the health and safety of others, causing damage to the property of others, or posing an undue financial or administrative burden on the school - AMDA may rescind approval of your ESA and require that you remove your ESA from the residence halls.