



Office of Accessibility
Simmons Hall 105
Akron, Ohio 44325-6213
(330) 972-7928

Emotional Support Animals

Emotional Support Animals or ESAs are a category of animals that may provide a therapeutic benefit to the owner through companionship. The animal provides emotional support and comfort to individuals with a mental or psychiatric disability. An ESA alleviates one or more identified symptoms of an individual's disability but are not considered Service Animals under the ADA. Some ESAs are professionally trained, but in other cases ESAs provide the necessary support to individuals with disabilities without any formal training or certification.

Due to University policy, all students requesting an Emotional Support Animal (ESA) housing accommodation must submit the official ESA Documentation Guidelines Form. The Office of Accessibility is unable to accept any alternative forms of documentation for

Additionally, the letter will be sent to Residence Life and Housing. Please note, the University holds the

owner's responsibility to know and understand these ordinances, laws, and regulations. The University has the right to require documentation of compliance with such ordinances, laws, and/or regulations, which may include a vaccination certificate. Additionally, the owner must abide by all equally applicable residential policies, such as assuring that the ESA does not unduly interfere with the routine activities of the residents or cause difficulties for individuals who reside there.

- x Ensure the ESA is well cared for. The owner is required to ensure the emotional support animal is well cared for at all times. Any evidence of mistreatment, abuse, neglect, or leaving the ESA unattended for unreasonably long periods of time may result in immediate removal of the ESA and/or discipline for the owner pursuant to the University Student Code of Conduct, and/or Residential Life and Housing Handbook. In the event there is concern for the animal's wellbeing the University reserves the right to remove the ESA by any means deemed appropriate by University personnel. University personnel shall not be required to provide care or food for any emotional support animal. Additionally, the ESA may not be left overnight in University housing to be cared for by any individual other than the owner. If the owner is to be absent from his/her University housing overnight or longer, the emotional support animal must accompany the owner. The owner is responsible for ensuring the ESA is contained as appropriate, when the owner is not present during the day while attending classes, work, or other activities.

The University may require the owner to remove the ESA from University housing if:

x