

OFFICE OF ACCESSIBILITY  
 THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON  
 ANIMAL GUIDELINES

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DEFINITION

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 a service animal. Effective 10/1/2013

	<p>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</p>	<p>Emotional Support Animals or ESAs” are a category of animals that may provide a therapeutic benefit to its owner through companionship. The animal provides emotional support and comfort to individuals with a mental or psychiatric disability. An ESA alleviates one or</p>	<p>A Pet is an animal kept for ordinary use and companionship. A pet is not considered a Service Animal or an Emotional Support Animal.</p>
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	related to the handler's disability	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. Dogs or cats are commonly used as ESAs, but any animal may serve a person with a disability as an ESA.	
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.		

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF OWNER

- Registering with the Office of Accessibility is recommended for the best interest of the student and the service animal.
- The University of Akron recommends keeping identification on the service animal, such as a harness, for the safety of the service animal and others.
- The University is not responsible for the care (including feeding and toileting) or supervision of a service animal. A service animal shall be under control of its handler. A service 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 harness, leash or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control (e.g., voice control, or other effective means).
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- In addition, any damages caused by an animal (e.g., room furnishings, roommate belongings, common areas) will be the responsibility of the owner contracted for University housing. The owner is financially responsible for all injury or damage to persons or property, including other animals, caused by their animal. The owner is responsible to clean up after and properly dispose of the animal's waste in a safe and sanitary manner and, when possible, must use animal relief areas designated by the University. An individual with a disability is financially responsible for any damage caused by his or her animal beyond reasonable wear and tear to the same extent that it holds other individuals financially responsible for damages beyond reasonable wear and tear. The owner's space may also be inspected for fleas, ticks or other pests if necessary as part of the University's or its contractors' routine inspections. If fleas, ticks or other pests are detected through inspection, the owner will be billed for the expense of any pest treatment above and beyond standard pest management in the residence halls. The University shall have the right to charge the owner's University student account for any unmet financial obligations to the University under this provision.

## OUT OF CLASSROOM EXPERIENCES

- There may be instances in internship/co-op/clinical experiences when the service animal may not be permitted to accompany the student. Though service animals can accompany their handler almost anywhere the handler goes, they may be excluded from areas where their presence would constitute a fundamental alteration, an undue burden, or a direct threat to safety.
- Examples of settings where service animals may be excluded include, but are not limited to, sterile environments (such as operating rooms, some ICU rooms, some delivery rooms), clean rooms where microchips are manufactured, places where food is prepared, and open air zoological exhibits.
- If the service animal is properly excluded, the individual with a disability has the opportunity to participate in the service, program or activity without having the service animal on the premises.
- Students are encouraged to contact the campus and on-site coordinator for the out of classroom experience to discuss any limitations the service animal may have on site.

## TRAINING SERVICE ANIMALS

- Any individual training a service animal on campus must meet the requirements of [Ohio Revised Code § 955.43](#).

## 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 evacuation, it is recommended for the owner to have a kennel or crate and a disaster kit including food and water for the service animal.
- During a disaster, animals will accompany their owners to the designated safe area.
- University of Akron and/or emergency responders are not responsible for the removal of the ESA in emergency situations.

## GRIEVANCE

- The University of Akron has the sole discretion on safety matters related to service animals.

- In the event the owner does not comply with the owner's responsibilities set forth above, the University reserves the right to submit a referral to the Department of Student Conduct and Community Standards for disciplinary action as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct.
- The Office of Accessibility Residence Life and Housing, and the ADA Coordinator are charged with investigating complaints of discrimination or harassment, including complaints regarding implementation of guidelines in the residence halls. They place 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) 972-9228  
 TTY: (330) 972-5764  
 Email: [access@uakron.edu](mailto:access@uakron.edu)  
<http://www.uakron.edu/access/>

Human Resources ADA Coordinator  
 Administrative Services Building  
 185 East Mill St  
 Akron, Ohio 44325-4731  
 Phone (330) 972-6716  
 Fax (330) 972-2336  
 Email: [mas49@uakron.edu](mailto:mas49@uakron.edu)  
<http://www.uakron.edu/hr/services/ada/index.dot>

Residence Life and Housing  
 Ritchie Hall  
 Akron, OH 44325-1401  
 Phone (330) 972-7800  
 Fax: (330) 972-5662  
 E-mail: [reslife@uakron.edu](mailto:reslife@uakron.edu)  
<https://www.uakron.edu/reslife/>

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