

EDINBORO UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

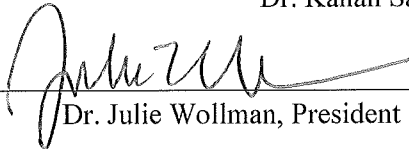
USE OF ASSISTANCE ANIMALS IN ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

Policy No. C059

Recommended for Approval by _____


Dr. Kahan Sablo, Vice President for Student Affairs

Approved by _____


Dr. Julie Wollman, President

on _____

9/3/14

Effective Date

Review Date: As Required

INTENT

Edinboro University is committed to reasonably accommodate persons with disabilities who require the assistance of assistance animals on campus to facilitate their full participation and equal access to the University's programs and activities in compliance with the Fair Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. § 3601 *et seq.* (FHA). The FHA requires covered entities to accommodate "assistance animals." With this in mind, the University and the Edinboro University Foundation each recognize that as a provider of on campus student housing, it has certain obligations with respect to animals that provide assistance to students with disabilities who live in such housing where pets are otherwise prohibited.

DEFINITIONS

Assistance animals are sometimes referred to as support, therapy or comfort animals. An assistance animal is not a pet. The term "assistance animal" is intended to mean an animal that works, provides assistance, or performs tasks or services for the benefit of a person with a disability, or provides emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's disability.

POLICY

Students with disabilities may request a reasonable accommodation to possess an assistance animal, including an emotional support animal. Requests for accommodations should be made to the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD).

The OSD, with the assistance of the Office of Residence Life and Housing, shall have sixty (60) days to evaluate a request for a reasonable accommodation to possess an assistance animal in a student housing unit based on:

- (a) Whether the student has a disability; and
- (b) Whether the student has a disability-related need for an assistance animal. In other words, does the animal work, provide assistance, perform tasks or services for the benefit of the student or provide emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's existing disability?
- (c) Whether the University can reasonably accommodate the animal.

The request may be denied if the specific assistance animal in question poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others that cannot be reduced or eliminated by another reasonable accommodation, or the specific assistance animal in question would cause substantial physical damage to the property of others that cannot be reduced or eliminated by another reasonable accommodation.

Students seeking an accommodation for an assistance animal that provides emotional support must provide reliable documentation of a disability from a physician, psychiatrist, or other licensed mental health professional qualified to

assess that the animal provides emotional support that alleviates one or more of the identified symptoms or effects of an existing disability.

Students who are assigned to roommates who do not want to share a room with an assistance animal may request a transfer, but the student being accommodated will not be required to move solely to accommodate another student's preference. However, where a student has medical issues that are precipitated by the assistance animal, the Office of Residence Life and Housing will attempt to reach a mutually beneficial solution that may involve either or both students relocating to another unit.

Assistance Animals On Campus

Once approved, students are required to comply with the following rules intended to directly relate to the ongoing health, safety and welfare of the campus community:

- (a) Students must comply with state and local laws governing the vaccination, licensing, ownership and maintenance of the animal and agree to provide documentation of compliance upon request by the Office of Residence Life and Housing.
- (b) Appropriate veterinarian care must be provided for the animal.
- (c) The animal must be healthy.
- (d) The student must be capable of controlling, and must at all times control, the animal.
- (e) The animal cannot be left unattended for inappropriate periods of time.
- (f) Animal waste must be disposed of so as not to create odor, damage, or health risks.
- (g) The animal must be housed in the student's housing unit, not in any common area outside of a suite or traditional dormitory room. The animal cannot exhibit behaviors that create a nuisance or undue disruption.
- (h) Policies regarding responsibility for property damage or repairs apply to damages caused by, or repairs necessitated by, an animal.

Consequences for Behavior

When an assistance animal is determined to be out of control, the infraction will be addressed on an individual basis through the Residence Life and Housing Office, the Office of Students with Disabilities, and the Office of Social Equity. If the animal poses a threat to the safety of others, the University Police will become a part of the collaborative team to determine the outcome of the behavior. Consequences may include, but are not limited to muzzling a barking dog, refresher training for the animal and its partner, or exclusion from university facilities until and unless the problem is resolved.

Conflicting Medical Needs

It is common for persons to have a medical condition that precipitates an allergic reaction to animals. Persons who have asthma/allergy/medical issues are encouraged to make their condition known to the Residence Life and Housing Office by providing medical documentation to support their claim. To resolve a problem as efficiently and effectively as possible, action will be taken to consider the needs of both persons. It should be noted that if a person with severe allergies is assigned after a person who uses an emotional support animal, the person with the emotional support animal cannot be required to relocate to accommodate the other person.

RELATED POLICIES and CODES

A008 – Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

D010 – Evacuation of Persons with Disabilities

D014 – Animals on Campus

Student Code of Conduct

CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact	Office	Address	Telephone
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Director	Residence Life and Housing	235 McNerney Hall	814-732-2818
Director	Office for Students with Disabilities	Crawford Center	814-732-2462