

# **Emotional Support Animals Policy for Residents Living In University Managed Housing**

## **Definition of Emotional Support Animal**

For the purpose of this document comfort and therapeutic companion animals will be referred to as emotional support animals. This information does not address service animals.

Emotional Support animals alleviate one or more identified effects of a person's disability.

## **Documentation (HUD/Fair Housing regulations)**

HUD/Fair Housing regulation provides that emotional support animals be considered a reasonable accommodation in campus housing. Since HUD/Fair Housing regulations only apply to housing facilities, the animal may not be allowed in other areas of campus. In order for an emotional support animal to be considered a reasonable accommodation there must be documentation of the following:

1. The existence of a disability.
2. A relationship between the disability and the relief the animal provides.
3. The animal is necessary in order for the resident to use and enjoy an on-campus residence.

This document is intended to outline the rights and responsibilities of residents who live in University Managed Housing and this policy is under the guidance of the overarching University of Wyoming Service and Assistance Animal Policy.

## **Emotional Support Animal as Accommodation: Resident Responsibilities**

Residents must comply with all state laws and local animal ordinances, as well as Residence Life & Dining Services policies and guidelines including, but not limited to, the following:

### **1. City of Laramie Ordinance 6.20.010 Cruelty To Animals**

It is unlawful for any person to overdrive, overload, drive when overloaded, overwork, torture, torment, harass, badger, bully or terrorize, deprive of necessary sustenance, cruelly beat, mutilate or kill needlessly, poison, abandon, permit any dogfight, cockfight, bullfight or other combat between animals, or to carry in a cruel or inhumane manner, any animal, or to cause any of these acts or omissions to be done. It is unlawful for any person owning an animal to fail to provide it with proper and adequate food and drink, which consists of access to drink and food at least every twelve hours, and to fail to provide the animal with necessary protection from extreme weather and medical attention and treatment to prevent suffering or to cause any of the acts or omissions to be done. Ownership or the commission of such acts of cruelty on private property shall not be justifiable defense for violation of this chapter.

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Additionally, Residence Life & Dining Services policies require that emotional support animals not be left alone for extended periods of time in resident's room or apartment. In the event that an emotional support animal is left alone in a room or apartment for an extended period of time and is not being properly cared for, Residence Life & Dining Services will contact the resident or their emergency contact to remove the animal. If this is not successful, Residence Life & Dining Services may notify the City of Laramie's Animal Control Center and shall have the right to have the animal removed. Such action may be taken by Residence Life & Dining Services without liability to the resident.

Any cost for removing the animal if the resident is not present, and arrangements have not been made by the resident for the animal to be removed or cared for, shall be the responsibility of the resident.

## **2. Local animal ordinances**

Local ordinances may include species limitations, required municipal license, collar with ID (with student's current phone number) and rabies tags. Ordinances also state that no dog may be left unattended in a public space and no animal may be allowed to roam free.

Residence Life and Dining Services requires that dogs and cats approved as emotional support animals must wear current vaccination and identification tags at all times.

## **3. Housebroken (i.e., toilet outdoors or use a litter box)**

Resident is responsible for cleaning up all animal waste (both indoors and outdoors) in a timely, effective fashion.

Additionally, the resident shall be fully and solely responsible for disposal of animal waste. Failure to dispose of pet waste appropriately will result in a violation of Residence Life and Dining Services policies.

## **4. Well-behaved**

This generally includes no barking, whining, squawking, scratching, chewing, or aggression.

The animal must be under the control of the resident, such as on a leash or in a carrier, when being transported to and from the hall. The resident is responsible at all times for the actions of his or her animal.

Animal shall not disturb, annoy, or cause any nuisance to other members of the community. Residents are responsible for any odors, noise, damage, or other conduct of his or her animal that disturbs others or damages the premises. Residents that violate this policy or these obligations may be required to remove the animal from residence hall room or apartment.

Caged animals are to be kept in appropriate cages with flooring and liner to prevent any damage to floors and to allow sanitary removal of pet waste. Resident will be required to pay for any damage and/or excessive cleaning fees caused by the emotional support animals.

## **5. Healthy**

Resident will provide verification of all veterinarian recommended vaccinations as well as proof of absence of communicable diseases, fleas and parasites (annually or as needed, thereafter). Resident will provide copies of the vaccination record and city license.

## **6. Animal cannot interfere with reasonable enjoyment of people sharing the space (e.g. allergies, phobias, religious preferences, and need for quiet.)**

Emotional support animals are not permitted in any public common spaces within the residence halls/apartments, including community/shared bathrooms, lounges, dining rooms, indoor recreational rooms, computer labs and study rooms.

## **7. Emergency care**

Resident will provide RLDS with contact information for an alternate caregiver if the resident is unable, or unwilling, to provide adequate care.

RLDS will assume no responsibility/liability for the care of a resident's emotional support animal.