



Guidelines for Assistance Animals/Assistance Animals in the Residence Halls

- Pets are not permitted in residence halls.
- Wichita State University is committed to compliance with state and federal laws regarding individuals with disabilities. A resident who desires to have a service animal or assistance animal in a residence hall must notify the Office of Disability Services at least thirty (30) days prior to the date that the resident seeks to have the animal in the residence hall.
- Federal regulations define a “service animal” as “...any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability...” A service animal is permitted to reside in the residence hall unless the animal’s behavior necessitates removal.
- For purposes of these guidelines, an “assistance animal” is defined as an animal that alleviates one or more symptoms or effects of a disability. A determination of whether a resident with a disability will be permitted to have an assistance animal in a residence hall as a reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis by the Office of Disability Services and Housing and Residence Life staff in consultation with the resident.
- An assistance animal may be permitted in a residence hall as a reasonable accommodation only if:
 - the resident has a disability;
 - the animal is necessary to afford the resident with a disability an equal opportunity to use and enjoy the residence hall; and
 - there is an identifiable relationship or nexus between the disability and the support that the animal provides.
- When it is not readily apparent that there is a need for an assistance animal, the resident must provide the following documentation to the Office of Disability Services:
 - Documentation of a disability
 - A signed letter on professional letterhead from a licensed physician, psychiatrist, social worker or mental health professional that states:
 - The nature of the disabling condition or impairment; and
 - The provider’s professional opinion that the animal provides support that alleviates at least one of the identified symptoms or effects of the disability.
- A service animal or an assistance animal will not be permitted in the residence hall that:
 - Poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others;
 - Causes substantial physical damage to the property of others;
 - Poses an undue financial or administrative burden; or
 - Fundamentally alters the nature of housing operations.
- A service animal that is disruptive, or that is not housebroken, will not be permitted in the residence hall. Whether an assistance animal is disruptive will be determined by Housing and Residence Life staff. Disruptive behavior by an assistance animal includes, but is not limited to, barking, jumping on individuals, growling at individuals, or the owner’s failure to have the animal on a leash when in common/shared areas of the residence hall.
- A resident who is permitted to have a service animal or an assistance animal in the residence hall is financially responsible for any property damage caused by the animal.
- The resident is responsible for the care of a service animal or assistance animal, and for cleaning up any waste created by the animal.
- If use of a service animal or an assistance animal in a residence hall is denied, the resident may appeal that decision by contacting the Director of Equality and Institutional Opportunity.