



**Idaho State
University**

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Emotional Support Animals for Residents Living in University Housing

ISUPP 5010

POLICY INFORMATION

Policy Section: *Student Affairs*

Policy Title: *Emotional Support Animals for Residents Living in University Housing*

Responsible Executive (RE): *Vice President for Student Affairs*

Sponsoring Organization (SO): *University Housing and Disability Services*

Dates: Effective Date: *May 5, 2014*

Revised: *N/A*

Review Date: *May 2017*

I. INTRODUCTION

Emotional Support Animals alleviate one or more identified effects of a person's disabilities. For the purposes of this document, comfort and therapeutic companion animals will be referred to as Emotional Support Animals. This document does not address service/companion animals.

Housing & Urban Development (HUD)/Fair Housing regulations provide that Emotional Support Animals be considered a reasonable accommodation in campus housing. Since HUD/Fair Housing regulations only apply to housing facilities, the animals may not be allowed in other areas of campus. In order for an accompanying Emotional Support Animal to be considered a reasonable accommodation, sufficient documentation meeting the requirements of current HUD/Fair Housing regulations must be provided. These include the following:

- A. The existence of a disability
- B. A relationship between the disability and the relief the animal provides.
- C. A showing of necessity in order for the resident to use and enjoy an on-campus residence.

In order to receive permission to have an Emotional Support Animal in University Housing, the student must work with the Office of Disability Services.

This document is intended to outline the rights and responsibilities of residents who live in University Housing and this policy operates under the guidance of the Idaho State University Service Animal Information.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Emotional Support Animal:** An animal that alleviates one or more identified effects of a person's disabilities.
- B. **Service Animal:** 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.

III. POLICY STATEMENT

Idaho State University is aware of its responsibility to provide safe, affordable and healthy housing to all students who wish to live on campus in University Housing. In keeping with this obligation, it is the policy of ISU that Emotional Support Animals be permitted in all housing facilities provided the established requirements are met. However, any student wishing to exercise their right to have an Emotional Support Animal in University Housing must first have the permission of the Office of Disability Services and University Housing. Bringing and allowing an Emotional Support Animal to stay in University Housing prior to acquiring said permission, may result in loss of privileges related to having an Emotional Support Animal in the future.

- A. Residents with Emotional Support Animals must comply with all state and local animal ordinances, as well as University Housing policies and guidelines. Resident will be required to annually complete University Housing documentation verifying all vaccinations and licenses for the Emotional Support Animal.

Emotional Support Animals will not be left alone for extended periods in a resident's room or apartment. In the event that an Emotional Support Animal is left alone in a room or apartment for longer than a reasonable time, and is not being attended to as needed (food, time outside, allowed to create a disturbance, etc.), University Housing will contact the resident or their emergency contact to remove the Emotional Support Animal. If this is not successful, ISU may notify the City of Pocatello Animal Services Department and shall have the right to have the Emotional Support Animal removed. Such action may be taken by University Housing without liability.

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

- B. Local animal ordinances may include species limitations, required municipal license, collar with identification (with resident'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. University Housing requires that dogs and cats approved as Emotional Support Animals, must wear current vaccination and identification tags at all times.
- C. Emotional Support Animals must be housebroken. The resident is responsible for cleaning up all animal waste (both indoors and outdoors) in a timely and effective fashion. Animals that are not housebroken may not be eligible to serve as an Emotional Support Animal. Additionally, the resident shall be fully and solely responsible for disposal of animal waste. Failure to properly dispose of animal waste will result in a charge of violating University Housing policies. Continued violations may result in eviction.
- D. Emotional Support Animals must be well-behaved; this includes no barking, whining, scratching, chewing or aggression. The Emotional Support 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 Emotional Support Animal.

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

- E. Emotional Support Animals must be in good health. The resident will provide verification of all veterinarian recommended vaccinations as well as proof of absence of communicable diseases, fleas, and parasites (annually and as needed thereafter). Resident will provide copies of the Emotional Support Animal's vaccination records and city licenses.
- F. Emotional Support Animals cannot interfere with the reasonable enjoyment of people sharing the space (e.g. allergies, phobias, religious preference, and need for quiet). Emotional Support Animals are not permitted in any public common spaces within the residence halls or apartments, including but not limited to community/shared bathrooms, lounges, dining rooms, indoor recreational rooms, computer labs, and study rooms.
- G. Residents with Emotional Support Animals will provide University Housing with contact information for an alternative care giver if the resident is unable, or unwilling to provide adequate care for the Emotional Support Animal.

University Housing will assume no responsibility/liability for the care or well-being of a resident's Emotional Support Animal.

IV. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

University Housing and the Office of Disability Services will assist students requiring Emotional Support Animals in their compliance with these policies. Any departments wishing to assist students or report violation of these policies and obligations should contact either of these offices. Any questions regarding enforcement of these policies and obligations will be forwarded to the Office of General Counsel.

V. PROCEDURES

- A. Prior to bringing an Emotional Support Animal to campus, students must contact the Office of Disability Services and University Housing and provide the required documentation.
- B. Only after permission has been granted by both the Office of Disability Services and University Housing, may a student bring an Emotional Support Animal into University Housing.
- C. Complete University Housing paperwork and provide any other procedures.
- D. Place signage indicating that an Emotional Support Animal is residing in the premises.