

Emotional Support Animal Policy

The following guidance has been established by the Office of Disability Services to assist in making decisions regarding the presence of emotional support animals in the residence halls for students with disabilities. These policies and procedures do not apply to service animals. Duquesne University reserves the right to amend this guidance at any time.

A request for an Emotional Support Animal may be denied as unreasonable if the presence of the animal: imposes an undue financial and/or administrative burden or poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others or would cause substantial property damage to the property of others, including University property.

For all requests for Emotional Support Animals, the Office of Disability Services will consult with the Office of Residence Life in making a determination on a case-by-case basis of how the accommodation will be implemented.

If the request is approved:

1. The student must meet with the Office of Disability Services to discuss implementing the accommodation.
2. The student must complete the "Emotional Support Animal Agreement".
3. The student's roommate(s), apartment mate(s), or suitemates(s) will be notified to obtain their agreement to have a support animal in their living environment.
4. Should there be conflicting considerations between the student approved for an emotional support animal and the needs of roommate(s), apartment mate(s), or suitemate(s), such as health/allergy conditions or fear of the animal, either the student requesting the emotional support animal or the non-approving roommate(s), apartment mate(s), or housemate(s) may be moved to a different location based on space availability. Residence Life will consider options for all involved students.
5. The animal may not reside in campus housing until final approval by Disability Services
6. Living Learning Center staff will be notified, as appropriate.
7. The student must provide contact information for an alternate caregiver who lives off campus and can care for the animal if the approved student is unable to do so.
8. The Office of Residence Life will assume no responsibility/liability for the care of a student's emotional support animal.