



Accessibility Resource Center and Residence Life

Service Animal and Emotional Support Animal Policy

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and the Fair Housing Act (FHA), Cabrini University is committed to accommodating persons with disabilities who require the assistance of a qualified service or emotional support animal. However, the University is also mindful of balancing the health and safety concerns of the campus community and therefore requires additional documentation from a qualified healthcare professional. Service animal and emotional support animal requests are determined on a case-by-case basis and the ARC may request additional documentation to determine whether the animal qualifies. This process may involve additional conversations between the student, the ARC, Health Services, Counseling and the Office of Residence Life.

Definitions:

Service Animal: A “service animal” is any animal trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. Some examples of these tasks may include but are not limited to guiding individuals with impaired vision, pulling a wheelchair, fetching dropped items, alerting individuals who are hearing impaired to intruders or sound, etc. The work or tasks the animal has been trained to provide must be directly related to the disability. Animals whose sole function to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as services animals under the ADA.

Emotional Support Animal: An emotional support animal is an animal that provides comfort to an individual with a disability upon recommendation of a healthcare or mental health professional. An emotional support animal does not assist a person with a disability with activities of daily living. Rather, their role is to live with the student and alleviate the symptoms of an individual’s disability to benefit from the University housing experience. Emotional support animals can provide companionship, affection, calming influence, or otherwise function as part of a regimen of psychological treatment. Federal law does not give emotional support animals access to campus as a whole. While a University is required to reasonably accommodate an emotional support animal in a residence hall or campus apartment, the institution is not required to allow a student to bring that animal to others areas or buildings on campus unless the animal also qualifies as a service animal under ADA and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Documentation Guidelines:

Service Animals: The University is able to make the following inquiries to determine whether an animal qualifies as a service animal:

Is the animal required because of a disability?

What work or tasks has the animal been trained to perform?

Emotional Support Animal (ESA):

Unlike a service animal, an ESA does not need to be trained to provide a work or task and does not accompany the person with a disability at all times. To summarize, a student may qualify for this accommodation if:



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The student has a documented disability under ADA. The documentation must specify the medical diagnosis and how the animal contributes to the course of treatment for the disability.

The animal is necessary to afford the student with a disability an equal opportunity to use and enjoy their dwelling

There is an identifiable and documented relationship between the disability and the assistance the animal provides.

Responsibilities of the Student with a Service Animal or Emotional Support Animal

Care and Supervision: Care and supervision of the animal is the sole responsibility of the student who benefits from the animal's use. The student is required to maintain control of the animal at all times. The student is responsible for cleanup of the animal's waste and must toilet the animal appropriately.

The Owner must provide contact information for an alternative caregiver/emergency contact who will take responsibility of the ESA and remove it from campus should the Owner be unable to care for it (e.g. hospitalization, accident).

The caregiver/emergency contact must reside OFF campus and must be available to remove the ESA in a timely manner appropriate for the animal species and needed care. Dogs must be removed within 6 hours. All other animals must be removed in no more than 12 hours. In instances where it is determined, the ESA's needs/ care are not being provided to ensure immediate health and well-being, the University reserves the right to have the animal removed from university housing. The

University may have an ESA removed from university housing if it is not removed in a timely manner as specified in this policy.

Health and Safety: The student is responsible to ensure that their animal does not threaten the health and safety of the campus community. Animals authorized to live in University housing must not interfere with others' enjoyment of residential space (examples include but are not limited to barking, creating unsanitary conditions, etc.). The University reserves the right to request vaccination and licensing information for emotional support animals.

Other Concerns: The student is financially responsible for any damage caused by their emotional support animal.

Denial of Emotional Support Animals:

For all requests for assistance animals, the Accessibility Resource Center will consult with the Office of Residence Life, Counseling and Psychological Services and health Services in making a determination on a case-by-case basis of whether the presence of an assistance animal is reasonable. A request for an assistance animal may be denied as unreasonable if the presence of the animal: (1) imposes an undue financial and/or administrative burden on the institution; (2) fundamentally alters University housing policies; and/or (3) 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.

Cabrini may consider the following factors, among others, as evidence in determining whether the presence of the animal is reasonable or in the making of housing assignments for individuals with Emotional Support Animals:



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1. The size of the animal is too large for available assigned housing space;
2. The animal's presence would force another individual from housing (e.g. serious allergies);
3. The animal's presence otherwise violates individuals' right to sleep, study and/or socialize;
4. The animal is not housebroken or is unable to effectively cohabitate with others;
5. The animal's vaccinations are not up-to-date;
6. The animal poses or has posed in the past a direct threat to the safety of the individual or others (e.g. displays aggressive behavior).
7. The animal causes or has caused damage to housing beyond reasonable wear and tear.

Conflicting Disabilities:

Cabrini University Office of Residence Life will make a reasonable effort to notify students in the residence hall where the animal will be located of the existence of a service or emotional support animal in the building.

Students with medical condition(s) that are affected by animals (respiratory diseases, asthma, severe allergies) should contact the Office of Residence Life if they have a health or safety -related concern about exposure to a service or emotional support animal. The individual will be asked to provide medical documentation that identifies the condition(s), and will allow determination to be made as to whether the condition is disabling and whether there is a need for an accommodation.



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Emotional Support Animal Documentation Request

The Accessibility Resource Center at Cabrini University is requesting medical information (diagnosis and prognosis) regarding (Student name) _____

which will be used to help determine: 1) whether the student meets the criteria for a disability under ADA including medical diagnosis, treatment plan, and how the animal contributes to course of treatment and 2) any appropriate and reasonable accommodations recommended by a certified healthcare professional. **Please provide the following information on professional letterhead:**

1. A clear statement of the condition(s), including the mental health diagnosis and expected duration of condition
2. The basis for your diagnosis and onset
3. Explain how the animal helps alleviate that condition
4. The positive and adverse effects of any prescribed medications
5. The functional limitations and impact of condition, including those in an academic setting
6. Rate the severity of the impact of the condition on the student's performance of major life activities
7. Describe your observations of how the animal and patient interact and how long you observe the interaction
8. Explain the possible negative effects of the person's not having the animal with him or her.
9. Mention any training the animal has received from a qualified trainer, if applicable
10. Recommended accommodations. The student is requesting authorization for use of an emotional support animal in the student's University housing unit as a reasonable accommodation. If you believe that such use is necessary to enable the student to live on campus, please explain the basis of your medical diagnosis and opinion and why you deem the animal necessary for the student's disability.

As the student's request for an accommodation is being reviewed, please note that we may need you to provide us with information that is more detailed. Should this become necessary, you will be provided with a follow-up request specifying which additional documentation we require.

Thank you for your assistance.

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____

Please mail, email, or fax documentation to:

**Accessibility Resource Center
Cabrini University
Founder's Hall #99
610 King of Prussia Road
Radnor, Pa 19087**

**Email: arc@cabrini.edu
Phone: 610-902-1091
Fax: 610-902-8282**



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Emotional Support Animal Documentation Request: Residence Life

STUDENT INFORMATION *(Please type or print legibly)*

Name _____ Student ID _____

Emergency Care Taker Name _____ Phone _____

Semester(s) for which you are requesting ESA: Fall Spring Summer Academic Year _____

Residence Hall Assignment during this time _____

Roommates/Suitemates sharing space: _____

ANIMAL INFORMATION *(for the ESA being requested)*

Type of animal: _____ Breed: _____

Weight: _____ Size (Height/Length): _____ Sex: _____



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Please describe type of living environment this animal needs (i.e. humane conditions regarding size of space, temperature needs, interaction/exercise needs, etc.):

Please describe how you plan to meet the care needs of this animal in the residence hall environment given your academic and extracurricular schedule. *Please remember the owner is solely responsible for the upkeep, including, feeding, watering, grooming, etc., of the emotional support animal. The University will not permit other individuals to access the owner's residential space for the purpose of animal care.*

COMPLETION OF APPLICATION STEPS

All steps must be completed for consideration. Initial and date the following steps as completed:

- _____ Documentation of ADA qualified disability on file with the DRC
- _____ Medical documentation regarding need for ESA submitted
- _____ Animal Records submitted (Veterinary and vaccination records, license, etc.)
- _____ Completed Emotional Support Animal Request
- _____ Any impacted roommates and/or suitemates have agreed to the presence of the animal
If approved.



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I have read the entire Service Animal and Emotional Support Animal policy and understand that I am bound by these policies at all times. I give permission to Residence Life to confirm all my information as reported with this application. I understand that any inaccuracies in my application may result in denial of my request for an ESA. I understand that requests and/or appeals for an Emotional Support Animal do not guarantee approval.

Signature of Applicant and Date _____

Date Received: _____	Approved: _____ Yes No	Term(s): _____
Notes:		Renew Dates: