

## UNLV Emotional Support Animal Guidelines

The following guidance has been established by UNLV to assist in making decisions regarding the presence of emotional support animals in the residence halls for students with disabilities. This guidance pertains to emotional support animals only, and not to service animals and pets. UNLV reserves the right to amend this guidance at any time.

### **Section I: Emotional Support Animals**

An “emotional support animal” is defined as an animal that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person’s disability. It allows the student with a disability to receive full benefit or enjoyment of the residence facility. A “pet” is defined as an animal kept for ordinary use and companionship. Residents are not permitted to keep pets in University housing, other than fish or underwater crustaceans.

Emotional support animals may not be brought into University housing without expressed approval from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and Housing and Residential Life. Generally, the presence of emotional support animals is approved for University housing only and will not be permitted in other UNLV buildings (e.g. libraries, academic buildings, classrooms, labs, student center).

### **Section II: Requesting Emotional Support Animals in University Housing**

A student requesting permission to keep an emotional support animal in campus housing should complete the steps below.

Approval of 1) an emotional support animal and 2) the particular animal requested by the student are determined on a case-by-case basis. Students must reapply each academic year to have an emotional support animal in university housing.

- A.** The student must meet with a DRC staff member to discuss the student’s request to have an emotional support animal in college housing.
- B.** The student should submit an “Application to Have an Emotional Support Animal in Campus Housing.” The form can be obtained from the DRC or Housing and Residential Life offices, or can be found online at [www.unlv-housing.com/forms](http://www.unlv-housing.com/forms).
- C.** The student should provide DRC with current documentation of disability from a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other mental health professional. Documentation should include the following:
  1. Verification of a disability that substantially limits a major life activity.
  2. A description of why the animal is necessary for the student to use or enjoy the living arrangements provided by the university.
  3. A description of an identifiable relationship or nexus between the disability and the support the animal provides.

D. After steps A, B, and C are completed, DRC and Housing and Residential Life will review the student's request.

1. If the request is **approved**:

- a. A meeting or conference call will be arranged with the student to carefully review the student's responsibilities pertaining to having an emotional support animal on campus (see Section III).
- b. The student must complete the "Emotional Support Animal Registration Form" (see form below).
- c. The student's roommate(s), apartment mate(s), or housemate(s) will be notified, as appropriate, to obtain their agreement to have a specific emotional support animal housed in their living environment (see form below).
- d. Should there be conflicting considerations between the student approved for an emotional support animal and the needs of roommate(s), apartment mate(s), or housemate(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. Housing and Residential Life will respond in a timely manner and will carefully consider options for all involved students.
- e. The animal may not reside in campus housing until the following forms have been submitted: 1) Emotional Support Animal Agreement Form, 2) Emotional Support Animal Registration Form, 3) required veterinary records, and 4) Roommate/Apartment Mate/Housemate Acknowledgement Form, if applicable.
- f. Housing and Residential Life building staff will be notified (e.g., the Residence Life Coordinator and Resident Advisor), as appropriate.
- g. 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 (e.g., unexpected hospitalization).
- h. UNLV will assume no responsibility/liability for the care of a student's emotional support animal.
- i. The student must notify the DRC and Housing and Residential Life if the animal is no longer in residence or if the student is requesting that the approved animal be replaced by another emotional support animal.

2. If the request is **denied**, the student may appeal the decision via the *REPLACE WITH TITLE AND LINK TO GRIEVANCE POLICY*

### **Section III: Responsibilities of Students Approved for Emotional Support Animals**

**A. Care and supervision.** The emotional support animal is the responsibility of the student, who is required to maintain full control of the animal at all times.

1. As a courtesy to others, the animal generally should be contained in the student's room if the student lives in a housing unit with a large number of residents and where it is not practical to obtain an agreement from all other residents to allow the animal to roam freely in shared spaces. The animal may roam freely in an apartment or house with a roommate agreement. When transported outside of these environments, the animal must be on a leash or transported in a carrier.
2. The student is responsible for ensuring that the emotional support animal does not interfere with routine activities of the residence or cause difficulties for other residents.
3. Emotional support animals may not become the responsibility of another student living on campus. The animal must be taken with the student if leaving the campus for a prolonged period of time, as appropriate for the animal, including overnight.
4. The student is responsible for ensuring proper cleanup of the animal's waste and, when appropriate, must toilet the animal in designated areas. Solid waste—including litter—must be placed in sturdy, securely tied bags before being disposed of in outside trash dumpsters.
5. The DRC and Housing and Residential Life may place reasonable conditions or restrictions on approved animals, depending on the nature and characteristics of the animal.

**B. Health and wellbeing.** Local ordinances regarding animals apply to emotional support animals, including requirements for immunization, licensing, noise, restraint, at-large animals, and dangerous animals.

1. Dogs must wear a license tag and a current rabies vaccination tag.
2. Animals housed in campus housing must have a clean bill of health from a licensed veterinarian.

**C. Financial responsibility.** Any cost for the actions of the emotional support animal -- including bodily injury, property damage, pest control and/or non-standard cleaning -- must be met by the student. UNLV reserves the right to bill the student's account for charges related to emotional support animals.

**D.** Removal of the animal from the University may be necessary if there are any violations of student responsibilities, the animal poses a direct threat to health or safety of others, or other situations arise that negatively impact the campus environment.

Should this occur, the student will be expected to fulfill any housing obligations for the remainder of the student's housing contract.

**Emotional Support Animal Agreement Form**

By my signature below, I verify that 1) I have read, understand, and will abide by the guidelines outlined above, and 2) I agree to provide the additional information below that may be required to complete my request to have an emotional support animal in college housing.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
DRC Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Housing and Residential Life Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Emotional Support Animal Registration Form**  
**Student's Information**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rebel ID

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's On-Campus Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Permanent Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip+4

**Emotional Support Animal's Information**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Animal's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Species

\_\_\_\_\_  
Breed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Animal's Sex

\_\_\_\_\_  
Spayed/Neutered?

\_\_\_\_\_  
Color

\_\_\_\_\_  
Age & Weight

Description of Animal:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Alternate Caregiver's Information**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alternate Caregiver's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

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Alternate Caregiver's Address	City/State	Zip Code
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**Additional Documents**

Please attach 1) as appropriate, a veterinarian's verification that the animal has all veterinary-recommended vaccinations to maintain the animal's health and prevent contagious disease, as required by local ordinances and regulation, and 2) a copy of Nevada's required animal license, if appropriate

**Roommate/Apartment Mate/Housemate Acknowledgement Form**

By my signature below, I understand that I will share the common areas of my assigned residential space with the animal approved by this agreement. Should I have any concerns regarding the approved animal, I will discuss my concerns with the approved animal's owner and with Housing and Residential Life.

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Resident's Name	Rebel ID	Date
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Resident's Name	Rebel ID	Date
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Resident's Name	Rebel ID	Date
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Resident's Name	Rebel ID	Date
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Resident's Name	Rebel ID	Date
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