

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL APPLICATION

It is the general policy of the University of Rhode Island that pets ARE NOT allowed in campus buildings or in URI Housing Facilities. However, for students who meet the following Eligibility Criteria, a reasonable accommodation may be made for students who demonstrate that the accommodation is necessary for them to have equal access to and use of URI Housing. Such an accommodation would allow the student with a disability to keep an Emotional Support Animal (“ESA”) with them in URI Housing. If approved, the student will be required to strictly follow the rules pertaining to animal control and student responsibility and register the animal with URI and HRL representatives.

Eligibility Criteria

In order to be eligible for a reasonable accommodation under this policy, and obtain approval to keep an ESA in URI Housing, the student must demonstrate all of the following through documented expert opinion of licensed providers that are NOT employed by the University of Rhode Island in any of their counseling or health facilities:

- That the student has a disability;
- The exception to the no pets rule (reasonable accommodation) is necessary to afford the student an equal opportunity to use and enjoy URI Housing and that no other mitigating measures or accommodations would sufficiently provide them with equal access to URI housing
- There is an identifiable relationship, or nexus, between the requested ESA and the student’s disability; and
- The ESA is not an Excluded Animal, please review full policy for details: web.uri.edu/disability/esa/.

Specific Steps To Follow

1. Make an appointment with Disability, Access, and Inclusion (dai@etal.uri.edu) or phone 401-874-2098.
2. Prior to the appointment, please provide DAI with a complete application form and comprehensive diagnostic data about your qualifying disability. This documentation must substantiate the disability and its specific impact upon your ability to live in URI Housing & Residential Life facilities. The DAI Coordinator will discuss your concerns with you.
3. The ESA accommodation committee will review your application, supporting evidence, and documentation. They will determine whether there is sufficient evidence to warrant the ESA as a reasonable housing accommodation.
4. The Director of DAI or designee will inform you of their decision. If the request is approved, the committee will forward a formal request, on your behalf, to the Director/Associate Director of Housing & Residential Life for their recommendation on housing assignment location. DAI will not be able to influence the particular location of your housing.
5. Until you receive confirmation that the request has been approved, the ESA CANNOT reside in campus housing.
6. Upon assignment, you are expected to comply with all HRL requirements, deposit/application procedures, and behavior code policies regarding noise, cleanliness and conduct. Students are responsible for their animal’s behavior.
7. Sign the Housing Agreement, which will specify expectations and directions about animal care and behavior.

Student Information

First Name _____ Last _____

URI ID _____ Date of Birth _____

Animal Information

Name _____ Species and Breed _____

Date of Birth _____ Date of most recent vaccination _____

Veterinarian _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Please respond to the questions listed below as completely as possible. Feel free to submit a separate document if you would prefer, so long as all questions are answered.

What is the disability for which you are seeking an ESA? What is the nature and severity of this impairment?

What identified symptoms and/or effects of your disability will be alleviated by this ESA being requested?

In what ways will the requested ESA alleviate these symptoms?

How is your requested ESA necessary for you to use and enjoy your living space?

Why are you requesting this particular animal as your ESA? Please provide details regarding the duration of your relationship with this animal.

Have you experienced a previous benefit from this ESA or a current benefit of having the ESA?

Understanding that an ESA is a housing-only accommodation, are you able to properly care for an ESA while engaged in typical college activities and/or residing in campus housing?

Are there any negative outcomes for you in having an ESA on campus?

Please identify an on-campus person who will be able to care for the ESA in the event of an emergency

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Please identify an off-campus person who will be able to provide a home for the ESA in the event that you are unable to adhere to the URI animal care guidelines page or choose to relinquish the accommodation.

Name _____ Phone Number _____

CARE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS

The following general policies are applicable to all approved emotional support animals (ESAs) and are enforceable through the URI Community Conduct Standards:

1. URI is not responsible for the care or supervision of the ESA. The owner agrees to take the animal home for any overnight absences and the duration of any vacation or break.
2. The animal's owner is responsible for the cost, care, and supervision of an ESA, including:
 - Compliance with any laws pertaining to animal licensing, vaccination, and owner identification;
 - Providing veterinary evidence where appropriate of animal health and vaccination.
 - Keeping the animal under control and taking effective action when it is out of control;
 - Feeding, walking, and disposing of waste;
 - Waste disposal via university plumbing is prohibited in university buildings, and waste is to be disposed of in external trash containers.
3. URI will not require any surcharges or fees for an ESA. However, the animal's owner may be charged for damage caused by an ESA to the same extent that URI would normally charge any person for the damage they cause to university property.
4. The owner of the ESA must comply with all university rules regarding noise, safety, disruption, and cleanliness.
5. In all cases, the owner/handler of the ESA is responsible for the animal's behavior. The owner/handler is also subject to disciplinary action via the URI Student Conduct process.
6. In all cases, the owner of the animal agrees to hold harmless the University of Rhode Island for any damage or any injury to others caused by their ESA. Evidence of home liability insurance may be requested for certain animals.
7. If necessary, the removal of any ESA, with any necessary cleaning, repairs and/or pest control will be done at the expense of the responsible resident.
8. An ESA, as appropriate to the animal, must be housebroken (i.e., trained so that it controls its waste elimination, absent illness or accident).
9. The ESA must be kept under control by a harness, leash, or other tether at all times.
10. If the ESA shows aggression or threatening behavior of any kind toward any other person or animal, this may be just cause to remove the animal and bar it from campus. Prior to such action, a University of Rhode Island representative will notify the owner of the ESA about the concern and will try to resolve the concern with the ESA's handler.
11. If the University removes an ESA or the student chooses to relinquish the animal, other reasonable accommodations will be provided to ensure equal access to university programs and services.
12. The owner agrees to notify DAI of any changes to the ESA plan or animal providing emotional support.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the above policies regarding Emotional Support Animals in Housing and Residential Life.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

DAI Staff Signature _____ Date _____