

# Need for Special Housing – Emotional Support Animal Policy

The Department of Residential Life maintains the following guidelines and requirements for students who are approved through the Need for Special Housing Process to have an authorized Emotional Support Animal(ESA) in a university residence. An ESA is not a Service Animal nor a pet, but meets an ongoing therapeutic need as established by a licensed health professional who has an ongoing therapeutic relationship with the requestor. Questions or clarification regarding the Emotional Support Animal Policy and its implementation should be directed to the Department of Residential Life.

## Guidelines and Requirements for Students with an Emotional Support Animal

### Emotional Support Animal

- 1) PLU limits an authorized student to no more than one ESA in residence at a time.
- 2) An ESA must be in good health, properly vaccinated and registered with Residential Life and Office of Accessibility and Accommodations. Documentation of current vaccinations must be on file with Residential Life prior to occupancy.
- 3) An ESA must have training and temperament appropriate to the Student Owner's on campus living accommodation.
- 4) An ESA must be able to live comfortably in the accommodation of the student. This means taking into account the amount of space an animal must have, the accommodations of the Student Owner, and the community environment.
- 5) An ESA must be maintained in a manner that takes into consideration the health and hygiene of the animal and those who come in contact with the animal.
- 6) It is the Student Owner's responsibility to ensure the safety of the ESA, that the animal behaves and responds appropriately at all times in public, and that the animal and the Student Owner adhere to the same socially accepted standards as any individual in the PLU community.
- 7) The care, feeding, and supervision of an ESA is the sole responsibility of the Student Owner.
- 8) The ESA must be contained within the private residential area (room or apartment) at all times, except when transported outside the private residential area in an animal carrier or controlled by leash or harness. The Student Owner and/or any guest handlers must be in full control of the animal.
- 9) When the ESA is present within the private residential area without the Student Owner present, the animal must be confined within an appropriate crate, cage or container.

### Student Owner

- 1) The Student Owner is financially responsible for the actions of the ESA including bodily injury or property damage including but not limited to any replacement of furniture, carpet, wall covering, etc. The Student Owner is responsible for any expenses that are required due to costs incurred for cleaning which is above and beyond a normal cleaning or for repairs to University premises that are assessed after vacating the residence.
- 2) The Student Owner is responsible for the appropriate disposal of their ESA's waste. Solid waste shall be disposed of in appropriate receptacles external to PLU buildings.
- 3) All liability for the actions of the animal (bites, scratches, damages, etc.) is the sole responsibility of the Student Owner and not the University.
- 4) The Student Owner is expected to take all necessary steps to keep their room or apartment clean and free of ESA related types of pests. Cages, kennels and litter boxes must be kept clean and pet foods must be stored in appropriate containers. All costs associated with any university action required as a result of a failure to do this will be assumed by the Student Owner.
- 5) The Student Owner must provide the contact information of a third party who is willing to immediately take care of and assume responsibility for the ESA, should the Student Owner become incapacitated and/or is not able or eligible to continue proper care for the ESA.
- 6) The Student Owner understands that this agreement is for an ESA in the residential facilities, and will not bring the ESA into any other university building.

- 7) Should the ESA be removed from the premises for any reason, the Student Owner is expected to fulfill their housing obligations for the remainder of the housing contract. The Student Owner must notify the Department of Residential Life in writing if the ESA is no longer needed or is no longer in residence. To replace an approved ESA, the owner must file a new request.
- 8) If a student withdraws from PLU (medical withdrawal or general withdrawal) or is removed from PLU for a semester or more, the Student Owner must reapply for an ESA each time they are reinstated into the University.

#### Community

- 1) Roommate(s)/Apartment-mate(s) of the Student Owner must agree to the presence of the ESA in the room or apartment, and confirm this in writing to Residential Life.
- 2) Roommate(s)/Apartment-mate(s) may rescind this agreement with writing to Residential Life and the Student Owner. The Student Owner will either remove the ESA or work with Residential Life to arrange for an alternative living accommodation for the Student Owner and ESA as space permits.
- 3) The Student Owner will remove – immediately upon notification – an ESA that constitutes a nuisance, health hazard, or threat to other residents or the community as based on the opinion of the Associate Vice-President for Campus Life, or designee.

#### University

- 1) The Department of Residential Life reserves the right to require that pest treatments and apartment repairs be facilitated at any reasonable time after or during the contract period. All costs for these treatments and repairs are the responsibility of the Student Owner.
- 2) The University will not take responsibility for the ESA in any way. In all cases, precedence will be given to the health, safety, and well-being of residents over the needs of the ESA.
- 3) Limited information about the presence of the ESA will be shared with key operational members of the PLU community. This is to ensure their awareness should they need to enter the room for maintenance purposes. Student Owner should note the presence of the ESA when making work order request and ensure the animal is kenneled or otherwise contained.
- 4) Any community member, including staff members within the Department of Residential Life, Campus Safety, peers, or staff and faculty have the right to report an ESA if they feel the ESA is in violation of a campus policy, this agreement, or the standards set in place within a residential community.
- 5) Any report of disruption or misuse will be forwarded to the Office for Student Rights and Responsibilities, and may result in a Review Meeting through the conduct process for the Student Owner. If found responsible for a violation, the University will impose educational sanctions on the Student Owner, which could include removal of the ESA from the University.
- 6) While in the process of obtaining and getting approval for an ESA, the animal must not be on campus at any time until explicit approval of an ESA is given to the Student Owner.