

Yeshiva University

Emotional Support Animal Policy and Request/Verification Forms*

Yeshiva University endeavors to follow the most recent guidance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regarding emotional support animals (ESA). In accordance with HUD and the Fair Housing Act (FHA), the University has created the following guidelines for ESAs in its Residence Halls.

General

Under the FHA, a person with a disability may keep an ESA in the individual's dwelling when there is an established need for the therapeutic nature of the animal that is connected to the individual's disability.

Accordingly, the University acknowledges that permitting an ESA that provides emotional support to a student with a mental health disability (as indicated in writing by an appropriate and relevant healthcare professional) may be a reasonable accommodation for the student in the University Residence Hall.

This Policy only addresses the presence of ESAs in University Residence Halls.

Qualifications for Reasonable Accommodation

A student may qualify for this reasonable accommodation if:

- 1) The student has a documented disability;
- 2) The animal is necessary to afford the disabled student an equal opportunity to use and enjoy his/her room in the University Residence Hall; and
- 3) T

Procedure

A student who wishes to explore bringing an ESA to live in a University Residence Hall should contact the University's Office of Disability Services (ODS) to learn about the kind of information that must be submitted to the University to request approval. In general, the student will be required to submit a completed and executed Emotional Support Animal Request Form and Provider Verification Form for an Emotional Support Animal Request (attached to this Policy). All information will be reviewed jointly by ODS and the University Housing and Residence Life staff (Housing).

The designation of an ESA must be determined by the University prior to bringing any animal to the University Residence Hall. It is advisable for the student to submit the ESA Request Form and Provider Verification Form at the same time as the student submits the Housing Application, giving a minimum of 60 days' notice prior to the desired move-in date so that the University can best accommodate the student and the animal, if it is approved. If the ESA Request Form and Provider Verification Form is submitted fewer than 60 days before the student intends to move into a University Residence Hall, the University cannot guarantee that it will be able to meet the reasonable accommodation needs during the first semester or term of occupancy.

If the need for the reasonable accommodation arises while a student already resides in a University Residence Hall, he/she should promptly contact ODS and complete the ESA Request Form and Provider Verification Form as soon as practical. The University cannot guarantee that it will be able to meet the reasonable accommodation needs during the semester or term of occupancy in which the request was received.

ODS and Housing will review the student's ESA Request Form, Provider Verification Form and other documentation; communicate with the appropriate professionals who can provide relevant information; and make determinations. The determination of whether or not an ESA will be permitted in a University Residence Hall will be made on a case-by-case basis.

ODS will promptly notify the student (generally within 7 business days) if the ESA Request Form, Provider Verification Form or other documentation does not have sufficient information for a

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need for an animal is essential to the University providing a smooth transition for all students. The University reserves the right to assign the student a single room without a roommate upon availability.

ODS will notify the student if an ESA is not approved, and the student may contact ODS to discuss possible alternative reasonable accommodations.

Please note:

- The University will consider only those ESAs permitted by local and state laws and conforming to standards within this Policy.
- Generally, only one ESA will be approved for a student.
- Generally, only one ESA will be permitted in any given University Residence Hall unit.
- A student may be approved for an ESA but not for a requested animal, if the requested animal is deemed inappropriate for æGenerally,,

Student Responsibilities

The care and supervision of the ESA is solely the responsibility of the student. The student must be in full control of the ESA at all times. ESAs may not pose a direct threat to the safety or health of the student or others on the University campus, cause bodily injury or property damage (beyond reasonable wear and tear) or fundamentally alter the nature of the University operations. The ESA must be maintained and well-cared for (kept clean, free from fleas or ticks, etc.), and evidence of mistreatment or abuse may be grounds for removal of the ESA (as well as sanctions to the student under student disciplinary codes). Local and state ordinances and laws regarding animals apply, including requirements for immunizations, licensing, noise, restraint, and dangerous animals, and the student is responsible to know, understand and comply with these ordinances and laws. The University may request documentation of compliance with such ordinances and laws at any time.

An ESA's behavior, noise, odor and waste must not exceed reasonable standards for a well-behaved animal. These factors should not create unreasonable disruptions for other residents. If the noise (whining, barking or meowing) is excessive as judged by University staff, it is grounds to have the ESA removed.

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allowed to roam freely in the University Residence Hall (other than in the student's room) or otherwise on campus grounds. In addition, the ESA generally cannot be taken into classrooms or other buildings on campus. If an animal is found running at large, the animal is subject to capture and confinement as well as immediate removal from University housing at the student's expense.

The student, not the University, is responsible for the actions of the ESA including, but not limited to, any bodily injury or property damage (beyond reasonable wear and tear). Students with ESAs are likely to be charged if additional cleaning or damage occurs as a result of having the ESA on campus. In addition, the University retains the right to have the ESA removed, at the student's expense, should the ESA become a direct threat to the safety or health of the student or others on the University campus, or due to other non-compliance with the requirements of this Policy.

The University shall not be required to provide care or food for any ESA including, but not limited to, .

Office of Disability Services

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Yeshiva University Emotional Support Animal Request Form

To be submitted the

Emergency Contact Person (person who can and will take care of the animal off campus as needed, including if the student must isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19 or otherwise

Yeshiva University

Provider Verification Form for an Emotional Support Animal Request



So that we may better evaluate the request for a reasonable accommodation, please answer the following questions:

Please provide the following information about the student's disability: (Note: A person with a disability is defined as someone who has "a physical or mental impairment that _____ one or more major life activities. That suggests that a diagnosis (label) does not necessarily equate with a disability (substantial limitation).

What is the nature of the student's mental health impairment? (That is, how is the student substantially limited?)

Does the student require ongoing treatment?

When did you first meet with the student regarding this mental health diagnosis? _____

When did you last interact with the student regarding this mental health diagnosis? _____

Please provide the following information about the proposed ESA: (Note: The University may approve

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form. If we need additional information, we may contact you at a later date. We recognize that having an ESA in a University Residence Hall can be a real benefit for someone with a significant mental health disorder, but the practical limitations of our housing arrangements make it necessary to carefully consider the impact of the request for an ESA on both the student and the campus community.

Please provide your contact information, sign and date this form, and return it to: rkohn1@yu.edu; and akelsen@yu.edu