

# UAF Department of Residence Life Animal Policy

*Pets are prohibited in UAF Residence Life buildings except as provided by this policy. People staying on campus in a guest status may not have a pet in university housing.*

## Definitions

**Service animal:** A dog (and in certain circumstances, a miniature horse) that has been individually trained to perform a task for the benefit of an individual with a disability. As provided in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals with disabilities may bring their service animals with them anywhere the individuals are normally allowed to go.

**Assistance animal:** An animal that works, provides assistance, or performs tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, or provides emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's disability, and has been approved to be present in university housing by UAF Disability Services (student residents) or the ADA/Section 504 Coordinator (employee residents) as reasonable accommodation for an individual with a documented disability under applicable law. Assistance animals are sometimes also referred to as an emotional support animal, therapy animal, or comfort animal.

**Pet:** An animal kept for ordinary use, pleasure, and companionship.

**Handler:** The individual to whom an animal is registered, or the individual for whom an assistance animal is approved, or the individual for whom the service animal provides service.

## General Requirements and Limitations

**Registration:** All pets, and assistance animals (excluding fish) must be registered with the Department of Residence Life before they can be present in university housing. Handlers must provide a current photo of their animal. The individual to whom an animal is registered is solely responsible for the animal.

**Vaccination:** All animals must have current vaccinations, as required by state and local law, and wear a rabies vaccination tag. Handlers must provide proof of current vaccinations before the animal moves into a Residence Life building. Residence Life may ask for current records and documentation at any time during an animal's residency.

Dogs and cats that go outside must wear an handler-provided tag that identifies the animal, the handler, and their phone number.

Handlers of pets must provide proof that their cat or dog has been spayed/neutered.

Handlers must notify Residence Life as soon as an animal no longer resides in Residence Life.

All animals must be housebroken (regarding dogs, housebroken refers to being trained to urinate and defecate outside; for cats, housebroken refers to being trained to urinate and defecate in a litter box or toilet; for small caged animals and fish, housebroken refers to urinating and defecating in their cage/aquarium).

To be kept as pets, dog breeds noted for their aggressive behavior require a waiver from the Associate Director of Residence Life. These breeds include Pit Bull, Rottweiler, Doberman Pinscher and German Shepherd. To receive an exception at the discretion of the Associate Director, owners of these breeds must provide proof of obedience training and demonstrate the dog is not aggressive.

## Physical Locations

Assistance and Service animals are permitted in all residential facilities.  
Pets are allowed in university housing as provided below.

### Single student housing:

Residents of Moore, Bartlett, Skarland, Nerland, Stevens, McIntosh, Wickersham, and Cutler Student Apartment Complex may not have pets, with the exception of fish in a single tank not exceeding 10 gallons per unit.

### Employee, family and graduate housing:

Residents of Chandalar, Hess Village, Rainey Cabin, and Tanana may have one small caged animal, or one dog, or one cat per household; residents of these units may also keep fish in a single tank not exceeding 10 gallons per unit. Residents of Stuart Hall and Walsh Hall may have one cat per household; residents of these units may also keep fish in a single tank not exceeding 10 gallons per unit. Residents of Harwood Hall, Garden Apartments may have fish in one aquarium not to exceed 10 gallons per unit.

Pets must be contained in the handler's individual unit at all times except when transported outside the unit via animal carrier, leash, or harness; animals must be restrained and under the handler's control at all times.

No animal may be tethered to university buildings, motor vehicles, trees, railings, light poles, benches, posts or other structures, or kept on runs outside of units.

## Pet Deposits

The following deposits are required for pets:

- \$1000 refundable dog or cat deposit, per household, in addition to other residence life deposits
- \$100 refundable deposit for a small caged animal

No deposit is required for fish allowed under this policy.

The return of deposit will occur after an inspection of the apartment is completed at move out or after the animal is permanently removed from the unit.

## General Expectations

- Handlers are responsible for ensuring their animals do not disrupt other residents or the community, this includes barking, whining, meowing, squeaking, squawking, talking, etc.
- Handlers may leave their animals unattended in their assigned residential unit only for a reasonable period of time, as determined by Residence Life staff based on the totality of the circumstances. Any animal left unattended in the Handler's residential unit must be contained, as appropriate for the type of animal, when the handler is not present during the day while attending classes or other activities. Handlers may not leave their animals (excluding fish) in residential facilities while the handler is away overnight without Residence Life staff written approval. For extended absences, the animal must travel with the handler or be boarded off campus when the handler is away. Any animal found in the handler's assigned residence in violation of these expectations or without its Handler and outside the Handler's assigned residence is subject to capture, confinement, and immediate removal from Residence Life facilities.
- Handlers must retain full control of their animals at all times while on university property.
- Handlers must immediately pick-up waste left by their animals on University property and dispose of it in outdoor garbage cans.
- Handlers must follow all other university and Residence Life policies.
- Handlers will take reasonable precautions to protect the property of the university and residents. All liability for actions of the animal (bites, scratches, damages to property, nuisance barking, etc.) is the responsibility of the handler.

## Animal Care and Cleanliness

Handlers are responsible for the care and cleanliness of their animals. This includes the personal hygiene of the animal (e.g., being bathed regularly) as well as the cleanliness of the housing facility, including the individual unit and the exterior walkways, lawn areas, etc.

Animal grooming is not allowed in university housing (e.g., bathing, clipping).

The handler must comply with Alaska Statute 03.55.100 regarding the minimum care for animals, including: .

- Food and water sufficient to maintain each animal in good health;
- An environment compatible with protecting and maintaining the good health and safety of the animal; and
- Reasonable medical care at times and to the extent available and necessary to maintain the animal in good health.

University staff are not responsible for the care or supervision of any animal, including but not limited to providing care for and cleaning up after the animal.

## Inspections

Residence Life staff will inspect the handler's residence to ensure that resident and animal are in compliance and following applicable policies. Inspections are not always pre-scheduled with the handler and may occur at any time. Handlers must comply with all inspections.

## Conflicting Health Conditions

Residents with medical conditions that are affected by animals (e.g., respiratory diseases, asthma, severe allergies) are asked to contact Disability Services (students) or the ADA/Section 504 Coordinator (employees and guests) to request a reasonable accommodation if they have a health-related concern about exposure to an animal.

## Decisions

An authorized Residence Life Representative has the authority to decide which pets are permitted to reside in university housing.

The Director of Residence Life will serve as appellate officer for any appeal of a decision.

## Violations of Policy/Removal of Animal /Disruptive Animals

Failure to comply with university policies, Residence Life policies, and this animal policy may result in a fee assessment for damages or expenses; exclusion of the animal; impoundment and removal of the animal; student conduct action; loss of housing; and any other available consequences, sanctions, and remedies.

The handler is financially responsible for any damage to property, including pet odors, or injury to individuals caused by the animal.

If fees or charges are assessed because of damage caused by an animal or for any other reason, those fees or charges will be assessed against the handler's university account.

If fumigation is required due to fleas, ticks or other pests related to an animal, the residence will be treated using approved fumigation methods by a university-approved pest control service, and the handler will be billed for the expense of any pest treatment above and beyond standard pest management in university housing.

Animals may be removed or excluded under the circumstances outlined below. Restrictions or exclusions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

1. The animal poses a direct threat to health or safety;
2. The handler does not maintain control of the animal, including but not limited to during any interaction with other animals;
3. The presence of an animal fundamentally alters a university program;
4. The animal causes harm or damage; or
5. Any provision of this policy is violated.
6. The animal is not housebroken

If an animal is removed for any reason, the handler is expected to fulfill the handler's housing obligations/agreement for the remainder of the housing contract.

Residents or guests found with an unauthorized animal in university housing will be required to immediately remove the animal and may face disciplinary action, as well as any fines or charges for damage to property or injury to individuals caused by the animal. If fees or charges are assessed because of damage caused by an animal or for any other reason, those fees or charges will be applied to the resident's or guest's university account.

For more information, the Chancellor's policy will be linked below.

<https://uaf.edu/chancellor/initiatives-and-policies/policy/05.09.001.php>

# UAF Department of Residence Life Animal Policy

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## Acknowledgement Form

By my signature below, I verify that I have read and understand the UAF Department of Residence Life Animal Policy, and I agree to abide by the requirements applicable to animals in university housing. I understand that if I fail to meet the requirements set forth in the policy, in addition to other possible consequences, UAF has the right to remove the animal, and I will be nonetheless required to fulfill my housing, academic, and all other obligations for the remainder of the housing contract.

I further recognize that the presence of a service or assistance animal may be noticed by others visiting or residing in university housing and agree that if my animal is a service or assistance animal, staff may acknowledge the presence of the animal and explain the animal is not a pet and under certain circumstances the law allows animals to be present.

I understand and agree that the Department of Residence Life will contact roommates who will be placed within the same residential unit as an animal to obtain their consent to live with an animal. Confidential information (e.g., a resident's diagnosis of a disability) will not be shared. If a roommate does not agree to live with an animal, either the owner and animal or the roommate will be relocated to a different unit.

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Owner Signature Date

# UAF Department of Residence Life Animal Policy

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## **Animal Emergency Contact Form**

To provide the highest level of care and support to animal owners in Residence Life, owners are encouraged to provide an emergency contact for animals living in university housing. The purpose of this form is to ensure animals are provided for in the event of an emergency involving the owner or if the owner is unable to care for the animal.

The person identified on this form must be willing to care for the animal and be able to retrieve the animal promptly after being contacted by university staff. If the emergency contact is not local, the owner will need to make arrangements and will be financially responsible for transporting the animal to the emergency contact. If the emergency contact lives on campus, the emergency contact will need to make arrangements and assume the cost of boarding the animal off campus until the owner is able to care for the animal. Owners will inform the emergency contacts that they will be asked to produce photo identification prior to taking custody of the animal or gaining access to the owner's space.

University staff will contact an emergency contact if the owner is unable to care for the animal due to an emergency involving the owner or if the owner has been absent for an extended time. If an emergency contact is not provided or is unavailable and the owner is unable to care for the animal, the animal will be placed with animal control at the owner's expense. At no time will the university be responsible for the care or well-being of an animal, or any injury to or death of the animal.

**Please provide the following information:**

Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Community / Room / Apartment #: \_\_\_\_\_

Animal Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Animal: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Agreement**

By signing below, owner authorizes university staff to contact the animal emergency contact in the instances listed above. The owner further authorizes the university to transfer the animal to the emergency contact. The owner authorizes the university to grant the emergency contact access to their residence if necessary to retrieve the animal. The emergency contact will be accompanied by university staff if they enter the owner's place of residence.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner Signature Date