

Assistance Animals in Real Estate Foundation-Owned Student Housing

Responsible Administrator: Chief Human Resources Officer & Director of Facilities

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College (SWTC) is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. For students living in Real Estate Foundation(REF)-owned student housing, SWTC will accept and consider accommodation requests for assistance animals in accordance with this policy.

Definition of Assistance Animal

An assistance animal is not a pet. It is an animal that works, provides assistance, or performs tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, or provides emotional support which alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a student's disability. An assistance animal does not need to be trained and is not limited to any specific type of animal.

Requesting an Assistance Animal

SWTC will consider a request by a student for an assistance animal in REF-Owned Student Housing. However, no assistance animal may be kept in student housing at any time prior to the student receiving approval. Students seeking an assistance animal should make a request to the Disability Services Office in the same manner as other requests for accommodations. Upon receipt, a Disability Services Specialist will require documentation of a disability and the student's need for an assistance animal. Documentation may be provided by someone who provides the student medical care or therapy or counseling such as doctors, physician assistants, psychiatrists, psychologists, or social workers.

Criteria for Consideration

Upon receipt of all necessary documentation, Disability Services, in consultation with the student, may consider the following factors:

- Whether the animal poses or has posed a direct threat to the individual or others;
- Whether the animal has caused excessive damage to housing beyond reasonable wear and tear;
- Whether the size of the animal is too large for the available housing space;
- Whether the animal's presence would force another individual from individual housing; and
- Whether the animal is housebroken or is unable to live with others in a reasonable manner.

The student requesting the assistance animal must provide SWTC consent to disclose information regarding the request to those individuals who may be impacted by the

presence of the animal including residence services staff and potential or actual roommates or neighbors. Such information shall be limited to information related to the animal and shall not include information related to the student's disability. SWTC reserves the right to assign an individual with an assistance animal to a single room without a roommate upon availability.

Owner's Responsibilities

The student will be asked to sign an assistance animal agreement and will be required to agree to the following terms:

- Keep the animal in the apartment unit and out of common areas in the housing facility (laundry, study lounge, etc.) except to the extent the student is taking the animal out for natural relief (animal must be harnessed or leashed during these times). The animal is prohibited on all other areas of campus;
- Ensure the animal is under the student's control;
- Abide by state and local vaccination and licensing laws;
- Ensure the animal is well-cared for and not left alone for unreasonably long periods of time;
- Be responsible for all damage caused by the animal;
- Be respectful of other students who reside in the housing community; and
- Inform disability services if the animal is no longer needed.

Removal of an Assistance Animal

SWTC may require a student to remove an assistance animal from the REF-Owned housing if any of the following occurs:

- The animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others;
- The animal creates an unmanageable disturbance or interference with the student's housing community;
- The animal causes damage (other than normal wear and tear) to SWTC property or the property of others;
- The presence of an animal results in a fundamental alteration of SWTC's program; or
- The student does not comply with this policy or the requirements set forth in the assistance animal agreement.

The decision to require a student to remove an assistance animal will be made by SWTC administration after careful consideration of the individual needs of the student and all circumstances regarding the assistance animal. If SWTC requires the removal of an assistance animal, the student is expected to fulfill his or her housing obligations for the remainder of the housing contract.

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Revision Date: