

# CAMPUS HOUSING ASSISTANCE ANIMAL POLICY

California State University San Marcos (“CSUSM” or “University”) recognizes the importance of “Service Animals” as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) and the broader category of “Assistance Animals” under the Fair Housing Act that provide physical and/or emotional support to individuals with disabilities. CSUSM is committed to allowing individuals with disabilities the use of a Service Animal on campus to facilitate their full-participation and equal access to the University’s programs and activities. CSUSM is also committed to allowing Assistance Animals necessary to provide individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to use and enjoy University housing. This Policy explains the specific requirements applicable to an individual’s use of an Assistance Animal in University housing. CSUSM reserves the right to amend this Policy as circumstances require.

This policy applies solely to “Assistance Animals” which may be necessary in University housing. It does not apply to “service animals” as defined by the ADAAA.

## **Definition of Assistance Animal**

“Assistance Animals” are a category of animals that may work, provide assistance, or perform physical tasks for an individual with a disability and/or provide necessary emotional support to an individual with a mental or psychiatric disability that alleviates one or more identified symptoms of an individual’s disability, but which are not considered Service Animals under the ADAAA. Some Assistance Animals are professionally trained, but in other cases Assistance Animals provide the necessary support to individuals with disabilities without any formal training or certification. Dogs are commonly used as Assistance Animals, but any animal may serve a person with a disability as an Assistance Animal.

Assistance Animals (AAs) are allowed access in Campus Housing facilities only. AAs are not authorized to attend class with a student, or to be in other public facilities on campus (e.g., dining facilities, libraries, academic buildings, athletic building, classrooms and labs). This policy does not apply to service animals which are legally permitted to be on campus, as well as in campus housing.

CSUSM will not retaliate against any person because that individual has requested or received a reasonable accommodation in University housing, including a request for an Assistance Animal.

## **Assistance Animal Agreement**

1. I understand that assistance animals are allowed only in accordance with the terms of this agreement and with the written authorization of both Disabled Student Services (DSS) and Student Housing.
2. I understand and agree that the assistance animal needs to be approved in writing prior to moving into campus housing and I need to renew my written approval each academic year by meeting with a DSS Counselor.
3. I understand that I must provide written proof of current distemper and rabies vaccinations as well as current licensure (if animal is a dog) to DSS for initial authorization of my assistance animal. To remain eligible for this accommodation, I must show proof each academic year that my assistance

animal's vaccinations and licensure are current. This will occur during an accommodation meeting with a DSS Counselor.

4. I agree to abide by all local and/or county animal regulations.
5. I am required to clean up after and properly dispose of the assistance animal waste in a safe and sanitary manner in appropriate relief areas.
6. I understand that I can be charged for any damage caused by my assistance animal beyond reasonable wear and tear. I also understand that I will be responsible for paying for any required treatment to remove ticks, fleas, or other pests resulting from my assistance animal.
7. I understand that my assistance animal may not be left overnight in University Housing to be cared for anyone other than myself. I know it is my responsibility to ensure my AA is safely contained when I am not present during the day to attend classes or other related activities.
8. I understand that CSUSM Housing has no responsibility in caring for, providing food, or providing any other support to my assistance animal. In addition, if I am not able to evacuate my AA in an emergency situation then it will be up to the first responders on site to determine whether or not to remove the animal and how this will be done.
9. Visitors or guests are prohibited from bringing any unauthorized pet on the grounds or into a unit except for authorized Service Animals or Assistance Animals.

### **Assistance Animal Behavior**

1. I will take adequate precautions to prevent my assistance animal from disturbing or threatening neighbors (e.g. barking, howling, loud meowing, scratching, biting, etc.).
2. I understand that my assistance animal may be removed from University Housing if:
  - a. it poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others or causes significant property damage;
  - b. the animal's presence results in a fundamental alteration of a University program;
  - c. I do not comply with the terms and conditions set forth above; or
  - d. The animal or its presence creates an unmanageable disturbance or interference with the University community.
3. Any removal of an assistance animal would be done in consultation with the DSS Director, ADA Appeals Officer, and the Housing Director.

### **Acknowledgement and Release of Information Consent**

I have read through the Campus Housing Assistance Animal Policy and I agree to abide by the principles outlined in this document. I am clear that any failure to meet the requirements and expectations outlined in this document may be grounds for the removal of my AA.

I give my permission to Disabled Student Services to explain to others in Campus Housing that my assistance animal has been approved as a reasonable accommodation. This information will be shared

with the intent of preparing for the presence of the assistance animal and/or resolving any potential issues associated with the presence of my AA.

I understand that I have the right to consult with the ADA Appeal's Officer if I believe my disability rights have been infringed upon. It is my understanding the Dean of Students is the acting ADA Appeal's Officer and can be reached by calling (760) 750-4935 and is located in the University Student Union Suite 3500.

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PRINTED NAME OF STUDENT

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DATE

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SIGNATURE OF STUDENT

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DATE

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PRINTED NAME OF DSS COUNSELOR

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DATE

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SIGNATURE OF DSS COUNSELOR

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DATE