



Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD)
Maximizing Ability & Opportunity
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POLICY, GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR RESIDENTS WITH SERVICE ANIMALS IN UNIVERSITY HOUSING

I. Policy Statement

The University provides reasonable accommodations to housing residents with a documented disability. This Policy governs the use of service animals in University housing.

II. Service Animal Requirements in University Housing

- A. A person who has a service animal on campus (including University Housing) is financially responsible for property damage caused by his or her service animal.
- B. All service animals residing in University Housing must meet the following weight restrictions: at least 8 pounds, but not more than 125 pounds.
- C. Service animal users shall abide by the University's [Service Animal Policy](#).

III. Procedures for Approving a Service Animal in University Housing

- A. A resident wishing to use a service animal in University Housing must identify and register with the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD) at least 30 days before housing for the animal is needed and provide the following documentation:
 - 1. Documentation of a disability;
 - 2. A signed letter, on professional letterhead, from the individual's health care provider stating:

- The nature of the disabling condition or impairment; and
- The provider's professional opinion regarding the relationship between the disability and the service that will be performed by the animal.

The University reserves the right to request additional clarification or documentation.

- B. The RCPD will validate the need for approved accommodations and work with the resident, University Housing, and Residence Life to facilitate a supportive network.

IV. Policy Exceptions

Individuals wishing to request a modification or exception to this policy as a reasonable accommodation should contact the RCPD.

V. Dispute Resolution Procedure:

Disputes or disagreements about a disability determination, appropriateness of an accommodation, service quality, or an animal restriction should first be raised with the RCPD specialist involved. If the matter cannot be resolved, a dispute resolution form should be submitted to RCPD (located at www.rcpd.msu.edu/awareness/dispute). Individuals may also file a written complaint with the University's ADA Compliance Officer in the Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives (<http://www.inclusion.msu.edu/>).