



Office of Housing and Residential Life Emotional Support Animal Request Form



**EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY**

Students requesting an ESA must also submit a housing accommodation request form.

Important Definitions:

Emotional Support Animal: An emotional support animal is an animal that provides relief to individuals with "psychiatric disability through companionship." Emotional support animals may be any type of pet, and are not recognized as service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act

Under Handler Control: A service animal or assistance animal must be under handler control at all times, which is defined as leashed, tethered, harnessed, unless that would interfere with the animal's work, in which case the animal must be under the handler's control via voice, hand signals, or other cue.

Policy:

Vaccinations: In accordance with local ordinances and regulations, the service or assistance animal must have current vaccinations and must be immunized against diseases common to that type of animal. Routine maintenance of the service or assistance animal is expected and includes flea and tick prevention, deworming, and annual examinations. Local licensing and proper tagging are also required for all service or assistance animals. The health of service or assistance animals must be documented annually by a licensed veterinarian. The University has authority to ask for proof of documentation and/or direct that the service or assistance animal receive veterinary attention.

Care of Animal: Under Massachusetts' law a handler of an animal must provide (1) proper food and water, (2) shelter or protection from the weather, (3) veterinary attention needed to reduce or end suffering from disease or injury, and (4) a sanitary environment. A handler of an animal is prohibited from (a) willfully abandoning an animal, (b) carrying or causing an animal to be carried in or on a vehicle in a manner that endangers that animal including transport of an improperly secured animal, or (c) willfully permitting an animal to be subjected to unnecessary torture, suffering, or cruelty.

Housebroken: Service or assistance animals must be housebroken. The student is responsible for properly containing and disposing of all animal waste. When indoors, animal waste must be placed in a sturdy bag and tied securely before being disposed of in a designated trash bin. When outdoors, animal waste must be immediately retrieved by the student, placed in a plastic bag, and securely tied before being disposed of in a designated trash bin.

Control of Animal: The student must effectively always control the service or assistance animal, such that the animal is considered under handler control, as defined above. If the student cannot effectively control the service or assistance animal or if it poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others, the University may have the animal removed from campus and/ or suspend the accommodation until such time that the problem is rectified. If the University determines that an assistance animal poses a serious direct threat to health or safety, the University may rescind the accommodation made for that particular animal on a case-by-case basis.

Responsibility for Damage: The student is financially responsible for the actions of service or assistance approved animal including bodily injury or property damage. The student responsibility covers but is not limited to additional cleaning, repair, or replacement of furniture, carpet, window, wall covering, and the like. The student is expected to cover these costs at the time of repair and/or move-out. **Communication with Others:** The student is responsible for instructing others on appropriate interactions with the service or assistance animal and setting clear expectations.

First Name: _____ **Last Name:** _____

Student ID Number: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

Two Emergency Contacts Information (Full Name, Phone Number, City, State & Relationship):

***Your emergency contacts must be willing and able to take care of the animal if you are not able to. We may need to reach out to this contact. Emergency contacts cannot be Resident Assistants or UMass Boston employees) ***

Veterinarians Name & Contact: _____

Veterinarians License # & State: _____

Animal Type: _____

Animal Breed: _____

Animal Weight: _____

Rabies Tag #: _____

Is the animal spayed/neutered: **Yes** **No**

Boston Dog License # (all dogs must be licensed in Boston prior to their approval to be on-campus. Dogs cannot be licensed in Boston any earlier than 6 months of age, meaning dogs younger than 6 months will not be approved.)

Supporting Documentation Required:

1. **Certificate of Health**
 - a. **Proof of rabies vaccine and date**
 - b. **Proof of flea and tick prevention**
 - c. **Proof of deworming**
 - d. **Proof of annual exam**
2. **Confirmation of dog being licensed in Boston.**