



Residence Life & Disability Support Services Assistance Animal/Emotional Support Animal Policy

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the University of Wisconsin Superior that assistance animals (hereafter includes emotional support animals) are generally permitted in the residence halls on the University of Wisconsin- Superior campus as described below.

Definition

“Assistance animal” is an animal that:

- Provides support to an individual with a disability that alleviates a symptom or effect of that disability, as documented by a healthcare or mental health professional; and
- Is necessary to afford a person with a disability an equal opportunity to use and enjoy the residence halls.

Determination

UW-Superior provides reasonable accommodation for persons requesting an assistance animal in the residence halls. The determination of whether an assistance animal will be permitted in the residence halls is made on a case by case basis through an interactive process involving the individual requesting the accommodation and relevant campus personnel. In all cases, the needs of the individual are balanced with the impact of an animal on other residence hall students, patrons, or programs.

In order for an assistance animal to be considered a reasonable accommodation in the residence halls, there must be current verification of need from a physician, psychiatrist, social worker, or other healthcare or mental health professional provided to the Director of Residence Life. This form is provided to the student requesting accommodation so they can obtain the appropriate documentation from their care provider.

Process

There are five steps to the process:

1. Students requesting assistance animals in the residence halls must begin by becoming registered with Disability Support Services via UWS Accommodate. Student should go to www.uwsuper/disability and complete the intake link at [“First-Time Disability Support Services Users \(Students Only\)”](#). If a student is already registered with Disability Support Services, they can complete a semester-specific request by logging into UWS Accommodate at the [“Returning Disability Support Services Users \(Student and Faculty\)”](#). Students must request “emotional support animal in residence halls” accommodation.
2. Students will be emailed the Assistance Animal Medical or Mental Health Provider Form. The first page must be completed by the student, then sent onto the provider with whom you have made the determination you need this accommodation. The provider must complete the form and return it to Disability Support Services (instructions within the form).
3. The Disability Support Services Coordinator will review the student’s information and the provider’s information and determine if an assistance animal/emotional support animal accommodation is appropriate. Students will be notified via their UW-Superior email account.



4. If approved, the Disability Support Services Coordinator will communicate this accommodation with appropriate Residence Life staff and the Dean's Council.
5. The student must arrange a meeting with a [central staff member of Residence Life](#) to discuss how to best accommodate the student, the assistance animal, and the campus community.

Exclusions

Assistance animals are only allowed within a person's dwelling in the residence halls, or other areas on campus where domesticated animals are permitted. Please reference Wis. Admin. Code UWS §18.08(1) for specific information. Assistance animals may be excluded from all campus areas including the residence halls:

- where its presence fundamentally alters the nature of the program or activity;
- if it poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others;
- if its presence would result in substantial physical damage to the property of others; or
- if it substantially interferes with the reasonable enjoyment of the area by others.

Requirements for Assistance Animals

All University of Wisconsin- Superior residence hall students who are provided an assistance animal accommodation must comply with all state laws and local animal ordinances, as well as all Residence Hall policies and guidelines including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Resident must provide appropriate food, water, and shelter for assistance animals
2. Residents are solely responsible for cleaning up and disposing of all animal waste (both indoors and outdoors) in a timely, effective fashion; cat litter boxes may not be placed directly on carpet and must have a protective layer between the box and the carpet that extends beyond the parameters of the litter box;
3. Residents are responsible for any odors, noise, damage or other conduct of the assistance animal that disturbs or damages the premises;
4. Any damages to room furnishings, carpeting or other finishes will result in assessment of replacement costs of property to the student hosting the support animal;
5. Host roommate desires and needs will be factored into the decision regarding an emotional support animal. Roommate allergies and other considerations may result in a reassignment of student seeking an emotional support animal placement;
6. Residents must not leave assistance animals alone in a room or suite for an extended period of time. In the event that an assistance animal is left alone in a room or suite for an extended period of time and is not being properly cared for, Residence Life will attempt to contact the resident or the emergency contact to remove the animal. If this is not successful, Residence Life may notify the Superior Police Department and seek to have the animal removed. All costs associated with removing the animal shall be the responsibility of the resident;
7. Residents must comply with all required state and municipal license requirements, including current identification and vaccination tags when applicable. Assistance dogs must wear a current rabies vaccination tag. Residents must provide requested verification of all veterinarian recommended vaccinations as well as proof of absence of communicable diseases, fleas and parasites (annually or as needed, thereafter);
8. Residents must not allow assistance animals to disturb, annoy, or cause any nuisance to other members of the campus community;



9. Assistance animals are not permitted in any public, common spaces within the residence halls, including community/shared bathrooms, lounges, indoor recreational rooms, computer labs and study rooms;
10. Assistance animals are not permitted in other residence halls besides the one assigned to the owner;
11. Residents are solely responsible for the care and supervision of assistance animals. Residence Life assumes no responsibility for the care of a resident's assistance animal;
12. Assistance animals are only allowed in areas of campus where domesticated animals are permitted. Please reference Wis. Admin. Code UWS § 18.08(1);
13. Violation of the above requirements will result in revocation of assistance animal agreement.

Visitors

Assistance animals accompanying campus visitors are only allowed in areas of campus where domesticated animals are permitted. Visitors include short term housing guests or as participants in camps or conferences.