

## SERVICE ANIMALS – RAISERS AND ALTERNATES

**Section:** Assignments

**Policy:** University Housing accommodates service animals-in-training in accordance with university policy.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to set procedures associated with students who want to serve as raisers or alternates for a service animal in training.

**Scope:** Applies to all on-campus students who are raising a service animal or serving as an alternate to raise a service animal.

**Definitions:** A raiser is an individual who takes care of a juvenile service animal while providing opportunities to teach socialization skills before the animal moves onto specialized training for future duties.

An alternate is an individual who will take care of the service animal in training when a raiser is unable to (one hour up to two nights).

A service animal-in-training is a dog that is being trained by a trainer identified as an agent or employee of an entity specialized in training dogs to become service animals.

Procedure:

- I. Students who plan to serve as a raiser or an alternate must be sponsored by an agency that works with the training of such animals (e.g., The Guide Dog Foundation). Each agency may have a different process for admission to their program.
- II. By February 1 of each year, the sponsoring agency will submit to University Housing a list of approved students and/or individual letters of approval for students who will be raising a service animal for the upcoming academic year.
- III. Alternate lists will be provided by the agency by July 1 for the fall alternates and December 1 for spring alternates.
- IV. For individuals serving as raiser, the Housing Assignments Office will email approved students a copy of this policy and an agreement form no later than April 30.
- V. For individuals serving as alternates, the Housing Assignments Office will email approved students a copy of this policy and an agreement form no later than July 15 for fall alternates and December 15 for spring alternates.
- VI. The resident must sign the agreement and obtain signatures from each roommate(s) in their residence hall room or apartment for the semester in which the service animal will be living on campus. The resident will be encouraged to submit the agreement as soon as possible, and must be submitted before the service animal can reside on campus.
- VII. Students who plan to serve as raisers must register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Completed registration will be evidenced by the distribution of a red tag that is to be affixed to the animal's collar and worn at all times. Raisers must complete registration annually or at any time there is a change in the raiser's status or the raiser is assigned a new animal-in-training. The DRC shall

maintain appropriate records on registered service animals-in-training. The Housing Assignments Office will verify registration with the DRC.

VIII. Resident Responsibilities

- a. All service animals-in-training must be treated humanely, including being housed in acceptable conditions (e.g., appropriately sized crate or carrier, ability to move freely in the assigned space).
- b. All roommates of the student must sign the agreement allowing the service animal to reside with them or stay in the room for a period of time. In the event that one or more roommates do not approve, either the student with the service animal or the non-approving roommate(s) may be reassigned to another housing assignment as determined by the assistant director for assignments and contracts in accordance with assignment to apartment or to hall and room section of the housing contract.
- c. The student who will be a service animal raiser will provide contact information of someone who can take possession of and care for the animal when the student is unable to do so due to an emergency. In most cases, this will likely be the contact information for the sponsoring agency and coordinator.
- d. The student who will be a service animal raiser or alternate must sign the agreement and submit the signed pages to the Housing Assignments Office.
- e. The resident is responsible for ensuring the service animal does not interfere with the daily operations of the residential facility or cause difficulties for residents who reside and work there.
- f. The resident agrees that sensitivity to individuals with allergies and to those who fear animals is important to ensure the integrity of the academic and residential community.
- g. The resident is responsible for properly containing and disposing of all animal waste. Outdoor animal waste must be immediately retrieved by the resident, placed in a plastic bag and securely tied before being disposed of in outside trash dumpsters.
- h. The resident agrees to continue to abide by all University Housing policies and procedures in accordance with the University Housing contract and Community Guide, including those regarding room condition and damages.
- i. The service animal-in-training must be under the direct control of the resident on leash/harness or other means facilitating control upon leaving a resident's room or apartment. The resident is responsible for ensuring that the animal is contained appropriately when not present in the residence unit for class, work or other activity. Additionally, the service animal must wear DRC-provided identification tags with contact information.
- j. The raiser is prohibited from the following: 1) transferring control of the service animal-in-training to another person even momentarily; 2) requesting the assistance of other persons in supervising or controlling their service animal-in-training; or 3) otherwise leaving the presence of their animal for any period of time unless the animal is in care of an approved alternate or except as otherwise provided by this policy or other UGA policies.
- k. The resident must ensure his or her animal is clean and well-groomed and kept in a healthy environment.
- l. Per university policy, the resident shall be liable for any and all resulting costs when an animal causes damage to University Housing facilities or property or causes injury to persons.
- m. For residents serving as alternates who live in a building with a community bathroom, the service animal will only be permitted in the public restroom. For residents serving as raisers, the service animal may have access to the restroom on the floor.

IX. Animal Health and Behavior

- a. Service animals-in-training will be permitted if their behavior, noise, odor and waste does not exceed reasonable standards for a well-behaved animal and that these factors do not create unreasonable disruptions to the residential community.
- b. Service animals-in-training must be in compliance with state and local laws regarding health, vaccination and care of the particular type of animal.

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