

Request for Service Animal in Training in WCU Campus Housing

Service Animals in Training are protected under Pennsylvania law for areas of public accommodation, housing accommodation, and commercial property.

Service Animals in Training must be undergoing training for or from a recognized authority, and trainers/handlers must be able to provide information regarding their qualifications to university personnel upon request.

Service Animals in Training are allowed in WCU campus housing only with prior approval.

All documentation must be submitted 30 days before occupancy is to commence in on-campus housing.

Documentation:

- **This form, completed**
- **Veterinary verification that the service animal is healthy, and its vaccinations are current**
- **Description of the specific task(s) the animal is training to perform**
- **The recognized authority sponsoring training and student qualification documentation**

This form is for a Service Animal In-Training, and NOT an Emotional Support Animal (ESA). What is the difference?

- Service Animals in Training are dogs and occasionally, miniature horses, that are being individually trained to perform a specific task(s) for people with disabilities. They have already been puppy trained and can complete everyday tasks not related to a disability, such as sitting, staying, or being housebroken. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) does not apply to Service Animals in Training.
- An ESA is an animal (typically a dog or cat, though this can include other animals) that provide a therapeutic benefit to its owner through companionship. The animal provides emotional support and comfort to individuals with psychiatric disabilities and other mental impairments. The animal is **not** specifically trained to perform tasks for a person who has emotional disabilities. An ESA is not automatically granted access to places of public accommodation, including areas where residents normally are permitted to go.

Students who misrepresent a pet or ESA as a service animal in training will be investigated for fraud and dishonesty and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for violations including, but not limited to, Student Conduct Policies 16 and 18.

A person commits the offense of misrepresentation of an animal as an assistance animal or service animal if the person intentionally: (1) creates a document misrepresenting an animal as an assistance animal or service animal for use in housing; (2) provides a document to another falsely stating that an animal is an assistance animal or service animal for use in housing; or (3) fits an animal that is not an assistance animal or service animal with a harness, collar, vest or sign that the animal is an assistance animal or service animal for use in housing. A person who violates this provision commits a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine not to exceed \$1,000.

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Service Animals in Training are allowed only in the public accommodation spaces of campus and in private residences on campus with prior approval. Puppy raising and training is not allowed in residence halls.

- Service Animals in Training must meet all state laws and local ordinances regarding vaccinations and proper licensure.
- The handler is responsible for the actions of the Service Animal in Training. These actions include bodily injury and property damage and may require financial compensation.
- The handler must control and properly supervise the animal at all times (e.g., animals must be restrained by a leash or other appropriate device that does not exceed 6 feet in length or other device which allows the owner to maintain control of the animal; not tether the animal to stationary objects; etc.).
- The handler is responsible for caring for and supervising the animal, which includes toileting, feeding, grooming, flea and tick prevention, and veterinary care.
- The handler is responsible for waste cleanup. If the handler is not able to physically pick up the animal waste, they must hire or establish someone who is able to complete the task. The waste must be properly disposed of in a trash receptacle.
- The handler is responsible for instructing others on appropriate interactions with the animal and setting clear and respectful expectations.
- The handler should ensure that the Service Animal in Training does not approach and sniff others, dining tables, or personal belongings of others.
- The handler must assure that the service animal does not block emergency exits or aisles.
- The animal must display good behavior and not disrupt others unless alerting the handler as appropriately trained.
- The animal can be asked to leave campus if the animal is out of control, a threat to others, or the animal is ill.

NOTE: Upon University request, the handler must provide evidence of the Service Animal in Training's progress toward the specific task to be performed. This can be through demonstration with the specific person with a disability the animal will be assisting or through documentation from a recognized training organization.



Residence Life and Housing Services

202 Lawrence Center

Phone: 610-436-3307 or 610-436-3306

Email: Housing@wcupa.edu

This Section to be Completed by Student

Student Name: _____ ID#: _____
Last First M.I

Campus Address (Dormitory): _____ Unit #: _____

WCU Email: _____ Phone: _____

Home Address: _____
Street City, State, Zip Code

Name of Training Organization: _____

Contact information for Training Organization: _____

- I have read this document and understand the conditions outlined.
- I have read the WCU Animals on Campus Policy and the Service Animal in Training in Residence Agreement and agree to abide by its contents.
- I have attached my qualifying credentials as a service animal trainer to this form.
- I have attached veterinary verification that the service animal in training is healthy and its vaccinations are current.

The primary task(s) the animal is being trained for:

Name of local (West Chester) veterinarian: _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return this form and all attachments to the Office for Residence Life and Housing Services. You will be notified via your WCU email if more documentation is needed and if your request is approved.

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