# Animals on Campus FAQs

## **Can I bring my pet onto campus?**

Pets may be brought to public, outdoor areas of campus. Other requirements for pet handlers are listed in the full policy.

## **Are pets allowed in classrooms or dorms?**

Pets are not allowed in any university building, including classrooms and dorms.

## **What is the difference between pets and other animals on campus?**

For purposes of this policy, a pet is any animal that is not a Service Animal, Service Animal in Training (SAInT), ESA, or otherwise noted in this policy.

## **What are Service Animals?**

Service Animals are defined as animals (dogs and occasionally, miniature horses) that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. These tasks can include things like pulling a wheelchair, guiding a person who is visually impaired, or alerting a person who is having seizure. The work or task a Service Animal does must be directly related to the person’s disability.

## **What are SAInTs?**

SAInTs 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.

## **Can I have a SAInT in WCU-owned campus housing?**

WCU-owned housing includes Goshen Hall, Killinger Hall, Schmidt Hall, Tyson Hall, College Arms Apartments, South Campus Apartments, and Matlack Court. Before requesting a Service Animal in Training in WCU Housing, the student must have accepted a housing contract.

There are requirements that must be met before a SAInT is allowed in WCU housing. SAInTs must be more than 6 months old, be undergoing training *for or from a recognized authority*, and trainers/ handlers must be able to provide information regarding their qualifications as a trainer, the name of training organization, and contact information for training organization. In addition, the animal must wear a vest or other insignia that identifies the recognized authority sponsoring training. The handler may be asked to show proof of training. Other information, including other requirements, is listed in the full policy.

## **Can I have a SAInT in USH-owned housing?**

USH housing includes Allegheny Hall, Brandywine Hall, Commonwealth Hall, University Hall, East Village Apartments, Village Apartments. Students need to contact USH directly with questions about animals in these halls/apartments.

## **What are Emotional Support Animals (ESAs)?**

An ESA is an animal (typically a dog or cat, though this can include other animals) that provides a therapeutic benefit to its owner through companionship. The animal provides emotional support and comfort to individuals with psychiatric disabilities and other mental impairments.

## **Can I have an ESA in WCU-owned campus housing?**

There are requirements that must be met before an ESA is allowed in WCU housing, and the student must already have accepted a housing contract before requesting an ESA. ESAs are housing accommodations prescribed by a mental health provider for a person with a disability. ESAs are only permitted in private living accommodation or the common areas in the hall of the residence hall *where the student resides.* Common areas include shared living areas, hallways, and hallway lounges. Students may not take their ESA inside another residence hall or other campus buildings.

As there are specific requirements for a student to have an ESA in WCU housing, students are encouraged to read the pertinent sections of the full policy carefully. For example, medical certification of disability is required.

## **What about roommate conflicts?**

The University reserves the right to reassign the student handler to a space to accommodate the ESA, if there is a potential impact on a roommate(s). If a different room is unavailable, the animal must be removed until a room is found.

In suite style residences, ESAs must always be under the control of the handler, including in common areas. If there are two students with animals in the same suite, the animals may be restricted to each handler’s bedroom if conflicts arise.

## **Can I have a SAInT in USH-owned housing?**

Students need to contact USH directly with questions about animals in these halls/apartments.