

**Contractual Guidelines:  
Maintaining an Assistance Animal  
Within the Eastern Iowa Community College District Residential Community**

**Definitions**

- A Service Animal is defined, for purposes of this contract, as an animal that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. The work or tasks performed must be directly related to the individual's disability. A formal "certification" of the animal by a training provider is not required.
- An Assistance Animal is defined, for purposes of this contract, as an animal whose sole function is to provide emotional support, comfort, therapy, companionship, therapeutic benefits, or to promote emotional well-being. While an animal could be trained, training is not required to perform a task related to emotional support. Any animal can qualify as an Assistance Animal as long as the requester provides the appropriate documentation. An Assistance Animal is an Emotional Support Animal, but is **not** a Service Animal.
- A pet is any domesticated or trained animal that does not meet the definition of a Service Animal or Assistance Animal.

In order to have a Service or Assistance Animal reside in campus housing, the student must first contact the Muscatine Community College Disability Services Coordinator and complete the appropriate documentation requirements.

**Guidelines and Requirements**

An exception to the animal and pet policy is granted for approved animals by the Muscatine Community College Disability Resource Coordinator, provided that their behavior, noise, odor and waste do not exceed reasonable standards for a well-behaved animal. The animal further cannot create unreasonable disruptions for other residents. If noise from the animal is excessive, as judged by Residential Life staff, and in conjunction with the Dean of Student Development, it is grounds to terminate the Assistance Animal's approval.

Any assistance animal must be contained within the student's dwelling at all times. For the purposes of this policy, a dwelling is defined as the assigned living unit of the resident. An assistance animal cannot be taken into classrooms or other buildings on campus .[Note: Service animals must be allowed in all areas of the campus.]

The Service or Assistance Animal must use designated spaces for disposal of bodily wastes, and the student must appropriately dispose of all waste. The student is responsible for ensuring that when the animal needs to relieve itself that such relief takes place in the designated spaces or areas. A designated area will be specified for animal relief spaces and areas.

If approved, the student must meet Muscatine Community College Resident Life staff and the Disability Resource Coordinator, to discuss the specifics of the accommodation with the student. The reasonable accommodation will include a discussion of on-going care and conditions (listed on the contractual guidelines) for the continued accommodation.

