

Office of Residential Life Emotional Support Animal Policy

An emotional support animal (ESA) is an animal selected to play an integral part of a person's treatment process. An ESA must be prescribed to an individual with a disability by a physician or mental health professional. An ESA is *not* a service animal. More information on the ESA policy can be found on the [Student Accessibility and Support Services \(SASS\) website](#).

Definitions

- The **emotional support animal (ESA)** is an animal selected to play an integral part of a student's treatment process, providing emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of an owner's disability. An ESA does not perform work or tasks that would qualify them as service animals as defined by the ADA. Emotional support animals are not considered pets.
- The **student-owner** is the student who has been permitted by Student Accessibility Support and Services and the Office of Residential Life to keep an animal in College owned housing.
- A **private, personal space**, is a space in which a student resides for the purpose of sleeping, dressing, and storing personal items. This would include a traditional residence hall single or double room that does not have an attached lounge or restroom, the individual or shared bedroom in a residential suite or apartment, or the individual or shared bedroom in a college-owned house or other off-campus property.
- A **communal space** is any space in a residential living environment that serves as a gathering space, either explicitly or implicitly, for the residents of the space and their guests. This would include lounges, bathrooms, and kitchens both inside of suites, apartments, and houses as well as those located in common areas within the residence halls.

Process

- Students interested in obtaining an ESA must apply through [SASS](#).
- The Office of Residential Life and SASS recommend that students seeking an ESA inform their roommate(s) of the pending application.
- If approved for an ESA, a student-owner will need to review the ESA policy outlined below and complete the ESA agreement form.
- Upon completion of this form, a student-handler's roommates/apartment-mates will be notified of the incoming animal to address potential conflicts with other documented needs.
- Only after these steps are completed may the student-owner bring the ESA to campus.
- If a student-owner is approved to move into a new residential space, the Office of Residential Life will confirm with the roommate(s) of the space to ensure that they consent to living with an animal. Confirmation will occur prior to the student-owner being granted permission to move to a given location.
- In the case of first time room and roommate assignments, the Office of Residential Life is permitted to inform roommate(s) of the type of animal that will be residing in the space.
- Student-owners approved for an ESA must comply with the guidelines that are listed in this document.

Access and Permissions

- Student-owners who require an ESA must affirmatively request an ESA with SASS, each academic year in which the student-owner is enrolled. Typically, only one ESA per student-owner is allowed.
- Venomous animals, exotic, and non-domesticated animals are prohibited to serve as ESAs in residential living spaces. Animals requiring heat lamps or UVA/B lights are also not permitted.
- ESAs may be limited in size with regard to residential room availability. The student-owner will not be granted a larger space to accommodate the ESA and/or associated materials and supplies.
- Having an ESA is considered an exemption to the pet policy as noted in the student handbook. Approval is given by the College to the student-owner for the ESA; if the student-owner withdraws or takes a leave from the college, the animal must be removed from campus when the student leaves and cannot be left or transferred to another roommate or student residing in college-owned housing.
- Student-owners who receive approval for an ESA will select their residential living space through the regular room selection process.
- An ESA must remain in the student-owner's assigned private, personal living space at all times, except when being transported outside in an approved manner. ESAs are not permitted in communal residential spaces, such as bathrooms, kitchens, hallways, lounges, etc.
- A student-owner may not take an ESA to class, or into any other building on campus.
- When an ESA is outside a student-owner's assigned private, personal living space, it must be in an animal carrier, or controlled by a leash or harness.
- The Office of Residential Life will inform Campus Safety, custodial, maintenance, and grounds staff where ESAs reside. When routine maintenance is necessary, the Office of Residential Life will make every effort to coordinate the schedule in advance so that the student-owner can be present.

Student-Owner Responsibilities

- Student-owners must comply with all village, county, and state ordinances, laws, and/or regulations, as well as College and Office of Residential Life policies, pertaining to animals. These include, but are not limited to, Ohio animal cruelty and neglect laws.
- The ESA must have all veterinarian-recommended vaccinations. Proof of vaccination is required before moving the ESA into any residential living space. Kenyon reserves the right to request an updated health record at any time during the ESA's residency.
- The student-owner is responsible for the control, care, and supervision of their ESA at all times, as well as for ensuring that the animal does not interfere with the routine activities of the residential facility or any of the students who live there.
- The ESA cannot be left in the care of another student at any time.
- Student-owners must notify the Office of Residential Life in writing if the ESA is no longer in residence. To replace the ESA with a different ESA, students must file a new request with SASS.
- If the student-owner leaves campus for a period of time, they must make off-campus arrangements for the animal and may not leave the ESA on campus overnight or longer, even if under the care of another person.
- The student-owner is financially responsible for the actions of the ESA, including damage to College or personal property or harm to others.
- When a student-owner requests repairs for their room and is absent from their room, the student-owner must ensure the ESA is crated or confined to a carrier or cage.
- A student-owner is responsible for removing the ESA during emergency evacuations. In the

event of an emergency, College officials and emergency responders will prioritize the safety and well-being of students, faculty, staff, and guests on campus. Officials and responders are not responsible for removing animals during an emergency, and may not be held responsible for the care, damage to, or loss of the animal.

Animal Behavior

- A specific animal may be prohibited from serving as an ESA if the animal's behavior is a threat to the health or safety of others, creates an unreasonable disruption for community members, and causes substantial damage to college property and/or the property of others.
- An ESA must demonstrate a good temperament, reliable and predictable behavior, and be able to live with others in a reasonable manner.
- The ESA must be housebroken, litter trained, or confined to a cage or other appropriate habitat.
- The ESA must be able to be left alone while the student-owner is away from the room for class, practice, or meals.

Animal Health and Well-being

- Dogs and cats must receive monthly preventative flea and tick treatments.
- Dogs and cats must be spayed or neutered.
- Kenyon College is not responsible for the care, health, loss, or death of the ESA.
- The student-owner must provide appropriate food, water and shelter for ESA and keep the animal and its shelter clean and free of odors.
- The student-owner is solely responsible for properly containing and disposing of all animal waste. Animal waste must be placed in a sturdy plastic bag and tied securely before being disposed of in outside trash dumpsters. Litter boxes should be placed on mats so that feces and urine are not tracked onto carpeted surfaces.
- In some circumstances, the Office of Residential Life may allow an animal control officer or humane society representative to enter the student-owner's room/apartment and remove the ESA if, in the College's judgment, the student-owner has: abandoned the ESA; left the ESA in the room for an extended period of time without food or water; or failed to care for a sick ESA.
- The College may take reasonable efforts, pursuant to Ohio law, to remove an animal confined in a vehicle on College property when there appears to be imminent danger to the animal due to inadequate ventilation or temperature conditions. The College is not liable for any associated repair/damage costs to the vehicle for this action.
- Student-owner residential spaces may be inspected for fleas, ticks or other pests during standard housing inspections or as needed. If fleas, ticks or other pests are detected through inspection(s), the residential space will be treated using approved fumigation/cleaning methods by a third-party, college-approved pest control/cleaning service. Student-owners will be billed for the expense of any pest treatment or cleaning above and beyond normal required pest management/cleaning.
- Animals are not to be bathed and/or cages/litter boxes washed in residential showers, tubs, or sinks.

Privacy

- SASS and the Office of Residential Life will only share information regarding a student-owner and ESA to other individuals on a need-to-know basis. This includes, but is not limited to, Campus

Safety personnel, custodial, grounds, and maintenance personnel, and emergency services.

Other Considerations

- Approval for an ESA may be revoked under the following conditions: the ESA is not housebroken, the ESA exhibits out-of-control behavior, the ESA is not approved by local ordinances, the ESA demonstrates a direct threat to the health and safety of others, or the animal hinders the peace and enjoyment of the community by its other members.
- Student-owners agree to continue to abide by all other residential policies. An exception to a policy that otherwise would prohibit having an ESA does not constitute an exception to any other policy.
- Should the ESA be removed from the premises for any reason, student-owners are expected to fulfill the residential requirement.
- If a roommate(s) object to sharing their room with an ESA, a roommate *or* the student-owner may be asked to move to a different room. Such decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis and in a way so as to not discriminate against the individual with a disability.
- Any violation of the above rules may result in immediate removal of the ESA from the College and may be reviewed through the appeal processes outlined in the Kenyon College Student Handbook.