



Policy Contents

- Purpose
- Definitions
- Policy
- Owner’s Responsibilities
- Community Responsibilities
- Appeals

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Responsible Officer: Vice President of Student Life

Policy Contact: Director of Housing

SECTION 1: PURPOSE

The University of Valley Forge recognizes the importance of animals to individuals with disabilities, and has established this policy to explain the conditions under which such animals are permitted access to University grounds and facilities. The University may amend this policy at any time, with or without prior notice, so please be sure to check with Student Life for the most up-to-date policy.

The University prohibits pets and other animals on and within University grounds and facilities. This policy provides a mechanism for an individual with a disability to seek a reasonable accommodation to the disability and an exception to that prohibition. Accommodation requests for Service Animals or Assistance Animals should be made in accordance with the procedures set forth in this policy. Accommodation requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please do not request an accommodation for a Service Animal or an Assistance Animal if you are not an individual with a disability.

SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS

Disability: Disability with respect to an individual means a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual, a record of such impairment, or being regarded as having such an impairment.

Service Animal: A Service Animal is a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. Dogs may be permitted as a Service Animal. In certain circumstances, miniature horses may also qualify as Service Animals. Other animals, whether wild or domestic, do not qualify as Service Animals. The work or tasks performed by a Service Animal must be directly related to the individual’s disability. Examples of such work or tasks include, but are not limited to, guiding individuals who are blind or have low vision, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, pulling a wheelchair, or assisting an individual during a seizure. Animals whose sole function is to provide emotional support, comfort, or companionship do not qualify as Service Animals.

Assistance Animal: An assistance Animal is not a pet. It is an animal that works, provides assistance, or performs tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, or provides emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person’s disability.

Guide	Service Animals	Assistance Animals
Federal Mandate:	Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)	Fair Housing Act (FHA)

Emotional Support Coverage:	Excludes Emotional Support	Includes Emotional Support
Where can the animal go:	All Campus (with a few health & safety exceptions)	Housing Only
Reason for Animal:	Access	Reasonable Accommodation
Is Approval Necessary:	No approval required. Prior registration required for students and employees living in University housing	Approval Needed. Registration required for students and employees living in University housing
Type of Animal:	Dogs, or in limited circumstances, miniature horse	All animals within reason. Exotic animals or animals that pose a disease threat, other health threat, or direct threat to the safety of others will not be allowed on campus.

Pet: A pet is an animal kept for companionship or pleasure, and not for assisting persons with disabilities. A pet is not considered a Service Animal or Assistance Animal, and therefore is not covered by this policy. UVF does not allow pets on campus or in University housing.

Service Animal Owner: A Service Animal Owner is a member of the University community with a disability that a service animal assists, or a personal care attendant who handles the service animal for a person with a disability.

Assistance Animal Owner: An Assistance Animal Owner is a member of the University community with a disability who has received approval under this policy for the presence of the assistance animal in his/her Residence Hall only.

See Related Information below for sources for all legal definitions.

SECTION 3: POLICY

Service Animal: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 2008 (ADA), individuals with disabilities are permitted to be accompanied by the Service Animals at the University in all areas of the University where the public is normally allowed to go. Even though Service Animals are generally permitted to be on University property in any place where the Service Animal Owner is permitted to be, there are certain locations where all animals are prohibited for health and safety reasons. These prohibited areas include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Mechanical rooms
- Custodial closets
- Research laboratories
- Areas where protective clothing is necessary
- Areas where the animal's presence would present a danger to the animal's health or safety or the health or safety of others in the area
- Residence halls or floors designated as allergy-reduced
- Food preparation areas, especially in the Dining Hall

Assistance Animal: In accordance with the Fair Housing Act (FHA), individuals with disabilities may be permitted to have their Assistance Animals in the University Residence Halls if certain conditions are met. Assistance Animals are not permitted in any other buildings on campus or University property, nor are they allowed in other controlled areas on campus. Assistance Animals are not allowed in other residents' rooms, even by invitation.

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