

UAF Department of Residence Life Animal Policy

Pets are prohibited in UAF Residence Life buildings except as provided by this policy.

People staying on campus in a guest status may not have a pet in university housing.

Definitions:

Service animal: A dog (and in certain circumstances, a miniature horse) that has been individually trained to perform a task for the benefit of an individual with a disability. As provided in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals with disabilities may bring their service animals with them anywhere the individuals are normally allowed to go.

Assistance animal: 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, and has been approved to be present in university housing by UAF Disability Services (student residents) or the ADA/Section 504 Coordinator (employee residents) as a reasonable accommodation for an individual with a documented disability under applicable law. Assistance animals are sometimes also referred to as an emotional support animal, therapy animal, or comfort animal.

Pet: An animal kept for ordinary use, pleasure, and companionship.

Owner: The individual to whom an animal is registered, or the individual for whom an assistance animal is approved, or the individual for whom the service animal provides service.

General requirements and limitations

Registration: All pets (excluding fish) must be registered with the Department of Residence Life before they can be present in university housing. Pet owners must provide a current photo of their animal. The individual to whom an animal is registered is solely responsible for the animal.

Vaccination: All animals must have current vaccinations, as required by state and local law, and wear a rabies vaccination tag. Owners must provide proof of current vaccinations before the animal moves into a Residence Life building. Residence Life may ask for current records and documentation at any time during an animal's residency.

Dogs and cats that go outside must wear an owner-provided tag that identifies the animal, the owner, and their phone number.

Owners must provide proof that their cat or dog has been spayed/neutered.

Owners must notify Residence Life as soon as an animal no longer resides in Residence Life.

All animals must be housebroken (regarding dogs, housebroken refers to being trained to urinate and defecate outside; for cats, housebroken refers to being trained to urinate and defecate in a litter box or toilet; for small caged animals and fish, housebroken refers to urinating and defecating in their cage/aquarium).

To be kept as pets, dog breeds noted for their aggressive behavior require a waiver from the Associate Director of Residence Life. These breeds include Pit Bull, Rottweiler, Doberman Pinscher and German Shepherd. To receive an exception at the discretion of the Associate Director, owners of these breeds must provide proof of obedience training and demonstrate the dog is not aggressive.

Physical Locations

Pets are allowed in university housing as provided below.

Single student housing:

Residents of Moore, Bartlett, Skarland, Nerland, Stevens, McIntosh, Wickersham (except Room 103), and Cutler Student Apartment Complex may not have pets, with the exception of fish in a single tank not exceeding 10 gallons per unit.

Employee, family and graduate housing:

Residents of Chandalar, Hess Village, Rainey Cabin, and Tanana may have one small caged animal, or one dog, or one cat per household; residents of these units may also keep fish in a single tank not exceeding 10 gallons per unit.

Residents of Stuart Hall and Walsh Hall may have one cat per household; residents of these units may also keep fish in a single tank not exceeding 10 gallons per unit.

Residents of Harwood Hall, Garden Apartments, and Wickersham Hall room 103 may have fish in one aquarium not to exceed 10 gallons per unit.

Pets must be contained in the owner's individual unit at all times except when transported outside the unit via animal carrier, leash, or harness; animals must be restrained and under the owner's control at all times.

No animal may be tethered to university buildings, motor vehicles, trees, railings, light poles, benches, posts or other structures, or kept on runs outside of units.

Pet deposits

The following deposits are required for pets:

- \$1000 refundable dog or cat deposit, per household, in addition to other residence life deposits
- \$100 refundable deposit for a small caged animal

No deposit is required for fish allowed under this policy.

The return of deposit will occur after an inspection of the apartment is completed. Residence Life will conduct the inspection 3-5 days after the unit is vacated or after the animal is permanently removed from the unit.

General expectations

- Owners are responsible for ensuring their animals do not disrupt other residents or the community, this includes barking, whining, meowing, squeaking, squawking, talking, etc.
- Owners may leave their animals unattended only for a reasonable period of time, as determined by the appropriate Residence Life staff based on the totality of the circumstances.
- Owners may not leave their animals (excluding fish) in university housing while the owner is away overnight. The animal must travel with the owner or be boarded off campus when the owner is away.
- Owners must retain full control of their animals at all times while on university property.
- Owners must immediately pick-up waste left by their animals on University property and dispose of it in outdoor garbage cans.
- Owners must follow all other university and Residence Life policies.
- Owners will take reasonable precautions to protect the property of the university and residents. All liability for actions of the animal (bites, scratches, damages to property, nuisance barking, etc.) is the responsibility of the owner.

Animal care and cleanliness

Owners are responsible for the care and cleanliness of their animals. This includes the personal hygiene of the animal (e.g., being bathed regularly) as well as the cleanliness of the housing facility, including the individual unit and the exterior walkways, lawn areas, etc.

Animal grooming is not allowed in university housing (e.g., bathing, clipping).

The owner must comply with Alaska Statute 03.55.100 regarding the minimum care for animals, including:

- Food and water sufficient to maintain each animal in good health;

- An environment compatible with protecting and maintaining the good health and safety of the animal; and
- Reasonable medical care at times and to the extent available and necessary to maintain the animal in good health.

University staff are not responsible for the care or supervision of any animal, including but not limited to providing care for and cleaning up after the animal.

Inspections

Residence Life staff will inspect the owner's residence to ensure that resident and animal are in compliance and following applicable policies. Inspections are not always pre-scheduled with the owner and may occur at any time. Owners must comply with all inspections.

Conflicting health conditions

The Department of Residence Life will make a reasonable effort to notify residents in proximity of any animal living in Residence Life. Residents with medical conditions that are affected by animals (e.g., respiratory diseases, asthma, severe allergies) are asked to contact Disability Services (students) or the ADA/Section 504 Coordinator (employees and guests) to request a reasonable accommodation if they have a health-related concern about exposure to an animal.

Decisions

The Associate Director of Residence Life has the authority to decide which pets are permitted to reside in university housing.

The Director of Residence Life will serve as appellate officer for any appeal of a decision.

Violations of policy/removal of animal/disruptive animals

Failure to comply with university policies, Residence Life policies, and this animal policy may result in a fee assessment for damages or expenses; exclusion of the animal; impoundment and removal of the animal; student conduct action; loss of housing; and any other available consequences, sanctions, and remedies.

The owner is financially responsible for any damage to property, including pet odors, or injury to individuals caused by the animal.

If fees or charges are assessed because of damage caused by an animal or for any other reason, those fees or charges will be assessed against the owner's university account.

If fumigation is required due to fleas, ticks or other pests related to an animal, the residence will be treated using approved fumigation methods by a university-approved pest control service, and the owner will be billed for the expense of any pest treatment above and beyond standard pest management in university housing.

Animals may be removed or excluded under the circumstances outlined below. Restrictions or exclusions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

1. The animal poses a direct threat to health or safety;
2. The owner does not maintain control of the animal, including but not limited to during any interaction with other animals;
3. The presence of an animal fundamentally alters a university program;
4. The animal causes harm or damage; or
5. Any provision of this policy is violated.

If an animal is removed for any reason, the owner is expected to fulfill the owner's housing obligations/agreement for the remainder of the housing contract.

Residents or guests found with an unauthorized animal in university housing will be required to immediately remove the animal and may face disciplinary action, as well as any fines or charges for damage to property or injury to individuals caused by the animal. If fees or charges are assessed because of damage caused by an animal or for any other reason, those fees or charges will be applied to the resident's or guest's university account.