

# Service and Assistance Animals Policy

It is generally the position of Greensboro College that animals are not permitted in Greensboro College buildings or on the grounds. One exception to this policy are those instances where there is a legitimate need for the use of a **properly trained and approved** Service or Assistance Animal as part of a reasonable accommodation.

Students who require a Service or Assistance Animal as part of a reasonable need for accommodation must understand that they are only one of many students, and that reasonable accommodation may take many forms. The college's ability to host a service animal is impacted by many factors. It is always our desire to fully support students with disabilities, and their use of properly prescribed service animals. However:

1. Students must contact the Office of Academic Accessibility (OAA) at least 30 days prior to the arrival of the animal to campus to begin the approval process.
2. Students seeking to have a Service or Assistance Animal in housing must submit a request for review/renewal each academic year. The animal may not be in residence prior to approval by OAA. The approval of a request is animal-specific and is not transferable to another animal.

## Section I. Definitions

**Approved Animal** - An "Approved Animal" is a Service or an Assistance Animal that has been permitted on Greensboro College property as a reasonable accommodation under this policy.

**Assistance Animal** - "Assistance Animals" are animals that perform tasks and/or provide assistance, comfort, or emotional support which alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of an individual's disability. Some, but not all, Assistance Animals receive training.

**Owner** - The "Owner" is the student who has requested and been granted to keep an Approved Animal on campus under this policy.

**Pet** - A "pet" is an animal kept for ordinary use and companionship. A pet is not considered a Service or an Assistance Animal. Individuals are not permitted to keep or bring pets on college property or in housing.

**Service Animal** - A "Service Animal" is any dog (dangerous breeds will not be permitted) that has been professionally trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a diagnosed disability. **Other animals do not qualify as Service Animals.** Service Animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a Service Animal has been trained to provide must be directly related to the functional limitations of the person's disability. Animals whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as Service Animals.

**Therapy Animal** - A “Therapy Animal” is any animal that is cared for and maintained by a qualified therapist and brought to campus under the supervision of that therapist for the purpose of providing time-limited therapeutic services to students.

## Section II. Service Animals

A student seeking to utilize a Service Animal on campus must make a formal request to OAA. To do so, the resident student must submit a completed “Disability Verification Form” and an Accommodation Request Form. The review process may take up to 30 business days to complete.

All requests for Service Animals must be accompanied by medical documentation of a diagnosed disability and a medical treatment plan which necessitates the use of a professionally trained service animal.

## Section III. Assistance Animals

An Assistance Animal is not a Service Animal or a Therapy Animal, and Assistance Animals do not typically require specialized training; therefore, the reasonable accommodation for students requiring Assistance Animals is usually a release from campus housing. Assistance Animals are not permitted on campus unless specifically approved in the OAA accommodation process.

The OAA requires 30 business days advance notice in order to gather, review, and verify the necessary documentation, which includes, but is not limited to: verification of a disability, the determination of any conflicting disabilities in the immediate vicinity where the animal may be housed, and verification of all vaccinations and the health of the animal including all the necessary licensing. If documentation is immediately available, the time for the approval process may be shortened.

Documentation of the need for an emotional support animal should include the “Disability Verification Form”, filled out by the person’s physical or mental healthcare provider or licensed therapist. The provider or therapist should be familiar with the professional literature concerning the assistive and/or therapeutic benefits of Assistance Animals for people with disabilities. At a minimum, the form should include the following items:

1. The provider’s diagnosis of the person’s condition.
2. A clear description of the current impact and functional limitations resulting from the disability.
3. The provider’s confirmation that the Assistance Animal has been prescribed for treatment purposes and is necessary to help alleviate symptoms associated with the person’s condition and/or to help the person use and enjoy university housing services.
4. The provider’s description of the service(s) that the animal will provide.
5. Any additional rationale or statement the College may reasonably need to understand the basis for the professional opinion.

OAA staff will review documentation and determine the appropriate action.

#### Section IV. Approval

This policy will be carefully reviewed with each student approved to have an animal on campus and an interactive dialogue will take place to determine exactly which campus buildings and grounds the animal shall be permitted into as a reasonable accommodation. Considering alternative accommodations (and the impact of the animal on the college community) some limitations may be required.

The effect on other students in the residence halls must be considered if the student requests to live on campus, including the potential effect on persons with allergies to animal hair or dander, as well as the willingness of roommates to share their housing with an animal. Depending on such considerations, an alternative housing assignment or release from housing requirement may be considered.

#### Section V. Owner's Responsibilities for Approved Animals

The Owner must comply with the following provisions regarding behavior and care of an animal:

1. The behavior, noise, odor, and waste of an animal must not exceed reasonable standards and these factors must not create an unreasonable disruption to the college community.
2. Dangerous, poisonous, and illegal animals are not permitted.
3. The animal must be contained within the owners living area at all times, except as required for transportation off-campus or to eliminate waste. While outside the Owner's housing, the animal must be in an animal carrier or controlled by leash or harness. When transporting the animal outside the housing, the Owner of an Assistance Animal shall carry an approved Accommodation Letter from OAA documenting that the animal is an Approved Animal.

The following pertains to the health and well-being of an Approved Animal:

**Vaccination:** In accordance with local ordinances and regulations, the Approved Animal must receive all required and/or recommended immunizations against diseases. The college may request updated verification regarding an Approved Animal's vaccinations at any time during the animal's residency.

**Health:** Approved Animals must be in good health as documented annually by a licensed veterinarian. The college reserves the right to direct that the Service Animal receive veterinary attention in appropriate circumstances.

**Training:** Service Animals must be professionally trained and certified to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of the individual with a disability. Owners must maintain current certifications for Service Animals for the duration of the animal's residency. ALL approved animals must also have and maintain appropriate behavioral training to live in a community setting.

**Control:** The Owner must be in full control of the Approved Animal at all times. A Service Animal must generally be on a leash, harness, or other tether unless the Owner's disability prevents its use, or the use of one would interfere with the Service Animal's ability to be of service. Dangerous animals (such as specific breeds of dogs) are not permitted.

**Cleanliness:** It is the Owner's responsibility to remove and properly dispose of any waste. A Service Animal must be clean and well groomed, and measures should be taken at all times for flea and odor control. If fleas, ticks, or other pests are detected through inspection, the housing will be treated using approved fumigation methods by college approved pest control service. The Owner will be billed for the expense of any pest treatment above and beyond normal required pest management. The Owner will be held responsible for any damages caused by the animal including but not limited to the excessive cleaning or replacement of carpet or upholstery.

**Other Conditions:** The OAA or Residence Life may place other reasonable conditions or restrictions on the Approved Animal depending on the particular facts and circumstances, including the nature and characteristics of the Animal.