

Brandeis University Policy for Residential Students Regarding Service Animals

Overview

Animals, including pets, are not permitted in Brandeis University housing with the exception of fish, as noted in section 10.14 of [Rights and Responsibilities](#). In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, we work with students to bring Service Animals to campus. For Support Animals, see separate Support Animal Policy.

Students who require a Service Animal will be permitted to bring such animals on campus provided that they comply with the University's policies regarding such animals.

Students with a Service Animal should first contact Beth Rodgers-Kay from Disabilities Services and Support (Usdan 130, 718-736-3470, or brodgers@brandeis.edu). Disabilities Services and Support, in collaboration with Community Living and the Health/Counseling Center, will work to mitigate any concerns regarding having a Service Animal in the residence halls.

Section I. Definition

Service Animal

Service animals are defined as dogs, or in limited specific circumstances, miniature horses, that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks made difficult or impossible because of a person's disability. Examples of work or tasks provided by a Service Animal include, among others, guiding a person with impaired vision, alerting a person with a hearing impairment, pulling a wheelchair, and alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure.

Service Animals are working animals; the work or task a Service Animal has been trained to provide is 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.

Section II. Process regarding bringing a Service Animal

A student who requires a Service Animal in residence must notify the Housing Accommodation Team. To do so, the student must submit a Housing Accommodation Request Form at <http://www.brandeis.edu/dcl/accomodation.html>. This is necessary because of the university's responsibility to inform other students and to address any allergy or other medical need related to another student's being around an animal. Once the Housing Accommodation process is

complete an agreement will be signed between the Department of Community Living and the student seeking the Service Animal.

Community Living staff will make a reasonable effort to notify the other residents in the building/community where the Service Animal will be located. This notice will be limited to information about the animal's presence as an accommodation to a student with a disability; there will be no disclosure of the student's disability. Other resident students with medical condition(s) who are affected by animals (e.g., respiratory diseases, asthma, severe allergies) are asked to contact Community Living if they have a health or safety-related concern about exposure to a Service Animal. We are committed to meeting the needs of all students involved.

The following pertains to the health and well-being of a Service Animal:

Vaccination – In accordance with local ordinances and regulations, the Service Animal must receive all required and recommended immunizations against diseases. Dogs must have a current vaccination against rabies and wear a rabies vaccination tag. Local licensing requirements must be followed. The University may request updated verification regarding a Service Animal's vaccinations at any time during the animal's residency.

Health – Service Animals must be in good health as documented annually by a licensed veterinarian. Appropriate documentation will be determined on a case-by-case basis, and the University may direct that the Service Animal receive veterinary attention in appropriate circumstances.

Training – Service Animals must be individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of the individual with a disability.

Control – The Owner must be in full control of the Service Animal at all times. The 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. The Service Animal may travel wherever the student needs to go.

Cleanliness – It is the Owner's responsibility to properly dispose of any waste. A Service Animal must be well-groomed, and measures should be taken for flea and odor control. The Owner will be held responsible for room damages including excessive cleaning or replacement of the carpet. This will be noted on the Room Condition Report form and during Health and Safety Inspections.

Section III. Owner's (Student) Responsibilities for Service Animals in Residence

1. The Owner is responsible for ensuring that the Service Animal does not adversely interfere with the routine activities of the residence hall. The Service Animal must not pose a threat to the health, safety, or property of anyone in the Brandeis University community. If either of these conditions is not upheld, the University will take appropriate measures, including a determination that the Service Animal may no longer be permitted in residence.
2. The care and supervision of the Service Animal is solely the responsibility of the Owner.
3. The Owner is responsible for ensuring the cleanup of the Service Animal's waste (e.g. urine, excrement, fur, cage shavings, etc.). Indoor animal waste must be enclosed in a sturdy plastic bag before disposal.
4. The Owner is financially responsible for the Service Animal, including for any bodily injury or property damage caused by the Service Animal. The Owner's financial responsibility may include replacement of furniture, carpet, window, wall covering, and costs of damage to other University owned property. The Owner is expected to cover these costs at the time of repair and/or move-out.
5. The Owner must notify Disabilities Services and Community Living in writing if the Service Animal is no longer needed or is no longer in residence.
6. The Owner's residence may be inspected for pests as needed. Community Living staff will schedule any such inspection. If pests are detected upon inspection, the residence room or hall will be treated using University-approved pest control methods. The Owner will be billed for the expense of any pest treatment that is beyond routine pest control. Community Living staff at the discretion of the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs or designee, may enter a room where a support animal is present if the condition of the animal is believed to be an immediate health and safety threat to the animal or the community at large.
7. From time to time, the University may use pesticides, pest control devices, de-icing materials, cleaning supplies, and other materials for the maintenance and operation of university housing. The University is not responsible for any harm to Service Animals caused by such materials.
8. Service Animals may not be left overnight in undergraduate housing without the Owner. Service Animals must be taken with the Owner if the Owner leaves campus overnight.
9. Community Living staff may relocate the Owner and Service Animal as necessary according to the Brandeis University Housing Contract/License Agreement. The Owner agrees to continue to

abide by all University policies, including campus housing policies. Any violation of this policy may result in immediate removal of the Service Animal from the University. Reported violations will be reviewed by the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs or designee. Should the Service Animal be removed from the premises for any reason, the Owner is expected to fulfill his/her housing contract.