How to Apply for an ESA

Under the Fair Housing Act, an Emotional Support Animal may be approved while living in on-campus housing on a case-by-case basis when there is a documented need. Reptiles and amphibians, other than turtles, are not permitted on campus due to CDC and HUD guidance. To be considered for approval to have an animal reside in your on-campus housing residence as an ESA, students must complete the Emotional Support Animal Application and attach all of the following:

Provider Letter

- A letter from a qualified healthcare or mental health professional on official letterhead, supporting your request for an ESA in on-campus housing. The letter should be written and signed by a provider familiar with you and the use of ESAs as a treatment option.
- **There is no legally recognized registry for assistance animals, and websites that advertise such a service are not affiliated with the government.**
- Documentation should generally provide insight into why the animal is necessary for you to fully access and utilize on-campus housing. While disclosure of a specific diagnosis is not required, we will need documentation that outlines the barriers you would experience without the presence of the animal, as well as how the animal helps alleviate those barriers.

Vet Records

- Documentation from your veterinarian confirming your animal is in good health with no transmissible illnesses, parasites, etc. (think fleas, worms, viruses). This can include a wellness exam report with results or a signed note from your vet/vet tech.
- Up-to-date proof of your animal's vaccinations. Rabies is a legally required vaccine for all cats/dogs, but we strongly suggest you follow your veterinarian’s recommendations for all other vaccines.

Recent Photo

- A clear photo of the animal.

Paper forms obtained from sources other than the AAS office will not be accepted. These forms are likely outdated and cannot be processed.

A committee with members from Access and Accommodation Services, University Housing, and Student Conduct will review applications. **Incomplete applications will not be reviewed**. Students will be notified of the decision via A-State email. The committee may reach out if additional information is needed.

Unanswered requests for additional information/documentation will result in a canceled application. Applications canceled due to missing information/documentation are not considered a denial, and students may reapply once they have all required materials.

Please note that your animal is not allowed on campus until you receive written approval. Possession of an unapproved animal will result in a referral to Student Conduct.

Revision #18
Created 2025-09-29 16:18:08 UTC by Victoria Shann
Updated 2026-10-01 15:30:54 UTC by Victoria Shann