

2.3 ASSISTIVE ANIMAL POLICY

Tenants of the Housing Authority with disabilities are permitted to have service and/or assistance animals, if such animals are necessary as a reasonable accommodation for their disabilities.

The Housing Authority Tenants or applicants who need an assistive, or service animal must request the accommodation in accordance with the reasonable accommodation policy. An animal qualifies as a reasonable accommodation if: (1) An individual has a disability, as defined in the Fair Housing Act or Section 504 and (2) the animal is needed to assist with the disability and (3) the individual who requests reasonable accommodation demonstrates that there is a relationship between the disability and the assistance the animal provides.

Service, support and/or assistive animals are not subject to requirements of the Housing Authority Pet Ownership Policy.

However, the Housing Authority:

- Will bill Tenant for damages caused by an assistive/support animal
- Will require that owner be able to care for the assistive/support animal (walk/feed/clean up after) and that the assistive/support animal be on a harness or lead when outside the Tenant's unit.
- Can require that person establish that he/she has a qualifying disability that affects the person's ability to perform major life activities
- Can require that person demonstrate the relationship between his/her ability to function and the help of the assistive/support animal
- Can require that the assistive/support animal is needed to assist with the qualifying disability
- Can require that Physician, Psychiatrist, Social Workers or other mental health care professional supply documentation for need of an assistive/support animal
- Can require assistive/support animal have current vaccinations updated per state and local laws
- Can deny the request or take away the accommodation if the assistive/support animal poses a direct and significant health or safety threat to others or the assistive/support animal has behavior issues that negatively affect other Tenants.
- Can deny the request if it will cause an undue financial or administrative burden, would fundamentally alter the nature of the operation or would result in significant property damage

The Housing Authority:

- Will Not restrict where assistive/support animals go.
- Will Not restrict a Tenant with an assistive/support animal from also having a pet. The pet policy would apply to any pet.
- Will Not restrict size, breed, type of the assistive/support animal
- Will Not require that assistive/support animals be professionally trained or have certification.
- Will Not require that owner put up a separate deposit to pay for repairs for an assistive/support animal.