Assistance Animal Policy

It is recognized that assistance animals (also known as emotional support or therapy animals) can provide valuable emotional support to students with properly documented conditions. The following information is provided to help define the role and the place of assistance animals at the University of Evansville.

Since the animal is not a service animal as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, the University needs to review documentation that specifically addresses the areas listed below to determine if the request for this accommodation is a reasonable and appropriate accommodation under the Fair Housing Act to the “no pet policy” of UE Residence Life.

In order for Disability Services to evaluate the request, the student should provide documentation (See Assistance Animal Request Form) from an appropriate licensed professional that thoroughly addresses:

1) Clear documentation of the student’s disability
2) Evidence that the animal is necessary to afford the student an equal opportunity to use and enjoy University Housing
3) Evidence of a direct relationship between the disability and the assistance the animal provides.
4) Indicate the level of need for the requested accommodation and the consequences of not receiving it.
5) In your professional opinion, does the student’s diagnosis rise to the level of a disability?

Responsibilities for Students with Disabilities Using Assistance Animals (also called Emotional Support or Therapy Animals) On Campus

A student with a disability who wants to have an assistance animal on campus is required to contact the Disability Services office. A requesting individual should provide the Disability Services office appropriate documentation at least 30 days before prospective housing will be needed for the assistance animal.

- The student is responsible for the care and well-being of the assistance animal. It is the student’s sole responsibility to:
  - Feed and water the animal
  - Keep the animal clean and odor free
  - The student is responsible for being knowledgeable of state and local immunization and licensing requirements for their assistance animal and for fully complying with those requirements. (copies of licensing and/or immunization documents must be provided upon request)
  - Provide the animal and pay for all appropriate veterinary care on both a routine and emergency basis

- Pick-up and dispose of the animal’s waste in the appropriate location as determined by the Director of Residence Life.
• Depending on the type of animal, the Office of Residence Life may provide additional details regarding conditions of care and supervision.

• Within the student’s residential unit and on University property, the assistance animal must be under the effective control and supervision of the student at all times.

• Unless otherwise specified, the assistance animal is not allowed in the common areas of a multi person dwelling, in other students’ rooms, in dormitory hallways, or in academic or administrative buildings. In Village Housing, locations will be specified by Residence Life in accordance with the type of residence.

• The student’s residence may be inspected for fleas, ticks or other pests once a semester or as needed. Residence Life will schedule the inspection. If fleas, ticks or other pests are detected through inspection, the residence will be treated using approved fumigation methods by a university-approved pest control service. The owner will be billed for the expense of any pest treatment above and beyond standard pest management in the residence halls.

• The student is financially responsible for all property damage caused by his or her assistance animal.

It is recommended that the student place a sign on their door to notify University staff and area residents that an approved animal is present on the floor/building. This is not required but it can be helpful.

Other students with medical condition(s) that are affected by the assistance animal (e.g., respiratory diseases, asthma, severe allergies) are asked to contact Residence Life staff if they have a health or safety related concern about exposure to the animal. The University is prepared to reasonably accommodate individuals with such medical conditions that require accommodation when living in proximity to a resident with an approved animal. Residence Life will consider the conflicting needs and/or accommodations of all persons involved. In the event that an agreement cannot be reached, the decision of the Residence Life Office is final and not subject to appeal.

The University may request the removal of the assistance animal for the following reasons:

• The assistance animal’s behavior, noise, odor or waste creates unreasonable disruptions for other residents.

• The assistance animal’s presence would result in substantial physical damage to the property of the University or others (unless the threat can be eliminated or reduced by a reasonable accommodation) or if the animal’s behavior otherwise creates a significant disruption to the environment or operations of the University.

An assistance animal will not be permitted to reside in University housing if it has a history of dangerous behavior. It will also not be allowed to remain on campus if the animal’s behavior poses a direct threat to the health or safety of the student or others and the student takes no effective action to control the animal’s behavior to reduce or eliminate that threat.

Student ___________________________________________ Date _______________

Witness ___________________________________________ Date _______________