# Emotional Support Animal in Student Housing

This accommodation outlines expectations for students approved to have an Emotional Support Animal (ESA) in Wenatchee Valley College (WVC) housing. Students granted this accommodation have already established their need through Student Access Services (SAS), including submission of appropriate veterinary records and licensing. The primary guidelines for ESAs are outlined in **WVC’s Service & Emotional Support Animals in WVC Housing Procedure [**[**1400.095**](https://www.wvc.edu/humanresources/policies-procedures/400-student-services/1400.095-service-emotional-support.html)**]**, with the following responsibilities in addition to the general SAS Rights and Responsibilities.

## Important Distinctions

* **Service Animal/Service Animal in Training**: A dog or miniature horse trained to perform specific tasks for a person with a disability. Service Animals are considered an extension of their handler and do **not** require accommodation approval from SAS. See WVC’s Service Animal Policy [[500.405](https://www.wvc.edu/humanresources/policies-procedures/500-human-resources/500.405-service-animal.html)] for more details.
* **Emotional Support Animal (ESA):** An animal prescribed by a healthcare or mental health provider to alleviate one or more symptoms of a person’s disability. Unlike Service Animals, **ESAs require approval from SAS** and are typically limited to the student’s assigned Residence Hall room.

## Student Responsibilities:

Students must participate in an animal care expectations meeting with the Residence Life Manager before moving the animal in.

Animal Health Requirements:

* Maintain appropriate veterinary care and provide records of care to SAS annually.
* Ensure the animal is clean, groomed, and free from fleas and odors.

Licensing Requirements:

* Maintain a current animal license through the City of Wenatchee and provide renewal documentation to SAS upon expiration.

Behavior and Control Requirements:

* The student is responsible for the ESA at all times, ensuring it remains under their control (e.g., leashed, harnessed, or in a carrier) and does not display disruptive or aggressive behavior.
* The ESA must stay in the student’s Residence Hall room, except for brief periods when entering/exiting the building.
* ESAs are not permitted in:
	+ Other WVC campus buildings.
	+ Residence hall common areas, except for brief transition periods when entering/exiting.
* Roommates are **not** responsible for the ESA’s care. It is recommended that students crate the animal when they are not present.
* The ESA must be housebroken, and the student is responsible for proper waste disposal in designated areas.
* The student is responsible for any damage or additional cleaning costs caused by the ESA.
* The ESA’s behavior is considered the student’s responsibility. If the animal disrupts the community or college operations, the student may be required to correct its behavior or remove it from campus.

## Additional Considerations

* SAS may notify individuals living or working in close proximity to the animal. Such information will be limited to notice of the animal’s presence as accommodation for a student with a disability. It will not include information about the student’s disability.
* The student is solely responsible for any damage caused by the ESA to persons or WVC property. WVC is not responsible for the loss, harm, or death of the ESA.
* If a concern arises about the ESA’s presence, the complaint will be thoroughly evaluated to determine appropriate next steps. Allergies or fear of animals are not valid reasons to exclude an ESA. Individuals with disability-related reactions to the animal should contact SAS.
* If an ESA violates behavioral expectations, the student’s rental agreement, or WVC’s Service & Emotional Support Animals in WVC Housing Procedure [[1400.095](https://www.wvc.edu/humanresources/policies-procedures/400-student-services/1400.095-service-emotional-support.html)], consequences may include written warnings or removal of the animal from campus. If an ESA is removed, the student’s accommodation remains valid and they may request approval of a different ESA.