



Service and Assistance Animals Policy

I. Purpose

Albert Einstein College of Medicine (“Einstein”) recognizes that Service Animals and Assistance Animals (as defined below) provide individuals with disabilities enhanced autonomy and independence. This Service and Assistance Animals Policy (the “Policy”) establishes the requirements, guidelines, and conditions under which Service Animals or Assistance Animals may or must be permitted access to Einstein grounds and facilities, including student/postdoctoral fellow (“postdoc”) housing (as defined below). Pets and non-research animals are otherwise prohibited on Einstein property, including student/postdoc housing. Einstein reserves the right to amend these guidelines as it deems necessary.

II. Scope

This Policy applies to all Einstein students, faculty, staff, guests, and visitors, including those staying in student or postdoc housing.

III. Definitions

- A. **Service Animals:** Any dog or miniature horse that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a Service Animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. Examples of work or tasks include but are not limited to: (i) assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision, (ii) alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, (iii) pushing or pulling a wheelchair, (iv) assisting an individual during a seizure, (v) retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, and (vi) helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support are not Service Animals but may qualify as Assistance Animals.
- B. **Assistance Animals:** Animals that provide emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's disability. Assistance Animals include animals that are commonly referred to as “emotional support animals” or “ESA.” Because they are not individually trained to perform work or tasks, Assistance Animals are not Service Animals.
- C. **Individual with Disability:** A person who 1) has a physical or mental impairment that limits one or more of a person’s major life activities or 2) has a record of having or being perceived as having a physical or mental impairment.
- D. **Owner:** Individual with a disability who has requested housing accommodation and has received written approval to bring the “Approved Animal” on Einstein property.
- E. **Pet:** An animal kept for ordinary use and companionship. A pet is not considered a Service Animal or an Assistance Animal. Pets are not permitted at Einstein, including in student/postdoc housing.

- F. **Approved Animal:** Service Animal or Assistance Animal that has been approved as a reasonable accommodation under these guidelines.
- G. **Student/Postdoc Housing:** Any facility operated by Einstein and/or the Einstein Housing Office for the purpose of housing residential students and postdoctoral fellows.
- H. **No Pets:** Non-approved animals are not allowed on campus or in housing without an Einstein-approved ESA or Service application. No visiting, babysitting, or pending foster or adoption animals are allowed.
- I. **One contract/one animal:** Only one Service or Assistance Animal application will be processed per housing contract, due to health, and security concerns including unit size.

IV. Policy

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), and state and local law, Einstein will accommodate persons with disabilities who require the assistance of a qualified Service Animal or Assistance Animal.

Approved Service Animals are generally permitted throughout the campus, including student/postdoc housing. Unlike a Service Animal, an Assistance Animal does not assist a person with a disability with activities of daily living, nor does it accompany a person with a disability at all times. Therefore, approved Assistance Animals are permitted in student/postdoc housing, but Assistance Animals are prohibited from all other Einstein property (e.g., libraries, academic buildings, classrooms, labs, student center, offices, etc.) without prior written authorization from the Senior Counsel or their designee (except for the outdoor area on Einstein campus specifically designated for dog runs).

Furthermore, Einstein may prohibit the use of Service Animals or Assistance Animals in certain locations because of health and safety restrictions (e.g., where the animals may be in danger, or where their use may compromise the integrity of research). **Restricted areas** may include, but are not limited to, the following areas: custodial closets, boiler rooms, facility equipment rooms, research laboratories, classrooms with research/demonstration animals, areas where protective clothing is necessary, wood and metal shops, motor pools, rooms with heavy machinery, vacant housing units, and areas outlined in state law as being inaccessible to animals.

IV.A. Process for Requesting a Service Animal or Assistance Animal

IV.A.1. Within Einstein Housing

1. Required documentation for requesting a Service or Assistance Animal in Einstein student/post doc housing:
 - a. Completed and signed [Request for Service or Assistance Animal Form, Housing Residents, OGC-FRM-2025-014](#).
 - b. Affirmation that the Service or Service Animal is required due to disability
 - c. Signed copy of [Rules and Responsibilities Agreement](#)
 - d. Current "Clean Bill of Health" documentation of the Approved Animal's clean bill of health from a licensed veterinarian. Acceptable documentation is a veterinarian's statement certifying that the animal is in good health and that all required vaccinations are up to date (executed on office letterhead)

- e. Vaccination: In accordance with local ordinances and regulations, the animal must be immunized against diseases common to that type of animal. Dogs must have current vaccinations against rabies and wear a rabies vaccination tag. Cats must have a current vaccination against rabies. Vaccination proof must be executed on office letterhead
- f. Proof of liability and pet insurance
- g. For a Service Animal, description of the specific tasks or work the Service Animal has been trained to perform

2. Process

- a. Anyone living in student/postdoc housing who requires a Service or Assistance Animal must complete the [Request for Service or Assistance Animal Form, Housing Residents, OGC-FRM-2025-014](#), and submit a signed copy of the form together with all required disability documentation to the Housing Office located at 1935 Eastchester Road, 1A, or by email to drenton@montefiore.org *at least 30 days prior to arrival on campus*.
- b. Anyone living in student/postdoc housing who develops a need for a Service Animal or an Assistance Animal after arriving on campus must complete the [Request for Service or Assistance Animal Form, Housing Residents, OGC-FRM-2025-014](#), and submit a signed copy of the form together with all required disability documentation to the Housing Office located at 1935 Eastchester Road, 1A, or by email to drenton@montefiore.org *at least 15 days prior to bringing a Service Animal or Assistance Animal on campus*.

IV.A.2. Non-Housing

1. Required documentation for requesting a Service Animal on Campus, non-housing:

- a. Completed and signed [Request for Service Animal Form, Non-Housing, OGC-FRM-2025-015](#)
- b. Current (dated within the last 6 months) documentation of the individual's disability completed and signed by their licensed physician, psychiatrist, social worker, or other licensed mental health professional that states how the animal serves as an accommodation for the verified disability and how the need for the animal relates to the ability of an individual to participate in student/postdoc housing (see Section IV.A.4 below on what documentation would be acceptable)
- c. Signed copy of [Rules and Responsibilities Agreement](#)
- d. Current "Clean Bill of Health" documentation of the Approved Animal's clean bill of health from a licensed veterinarian. Acceptable documentation is a veterinarian's statement certifying that the animal is in good health and that all required vaccinations are up to date (executed on office letterhead)
- e. Vaccination: In accordance with local ordinances and regulations, the animal must be immunized against diseases common to that type of animal. Dogs must have current vaccinations against rabies and wear a rabies vaccination tag. Cats must have a current vaccination against rabies. Vaccination proof must be executed on office letterhead
- f. Proof of renter's insurance with coverage for pet damage.

2. Process

- a. Anyone requesting a service animal in non-housing areas must complete the [Request for Service Animal Form, Non-Housing, OGC-FRM-2025-015](#), and submit a signed copy of the form together with all required documentation to the Director of Employee Relations in the

Belfer Building 12th Floor or by email at employeerelations@einsteinmed.edu *at least 15 days prior to arrival on campus.*

- b. Anyone who develops a need for a Service Animal, non-housing, after arriving on campus must complete the [Request for Service Animal Form, Non-Housing, OGC-FRM-2025-015](#), and submit a signed copy of the form together with all required documentation to the Director of Employee Relations in the Belfer Building 12th Floor or by email at employeerelations@einsteinmed.edu *prior to bringing a Service Animal on campus.*

IV.B. Documentation of Disability

Einstein will not accept documentation generated from fee-for-service entities whose business purpose is to supply assistance animal certification via online questionnaires and/or video or phone interviews. The mental health professional or physician providing the documentation must have a bona fide, active, and continuous treatment relationship with the Owner requesting accommodation and must attest to such treatment relationship in writing. Einstein has sole discretion to determine whether a treatment relationship meets this criterion.

IV.C. Decisions on Requests

Once the required documentation is submitted to the appropriate office, the individual requesting the accommodation will be notified as to whether the request has been approved or denied, or that additional information is needed.

Einstein is not required to provide accommodations that would pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others. Therefore, if a particular animal requested by an individual with a disability has a history of dangerous behavior or an unsafe disposition, Einstein will deny the request. Einstein will also deny requests that would: (1) result in substantial physical damage to the property of others unless the threat can be eliminated or significantly reduced by a reasonable accommodation; (2) pose an undue financial and administrative burden on the College; or (3) fundamentally alter the nature of Einstein's operations.

IV.D. Appeals

Individuals whose request for a Service Animal or an Assistance Animal through this process are not granted or whose formerly Approved Animal is removed because of a violation of this Policy will have the opportunity to appeal such decisions. All appeals should be submitted to the Office of General Counsel at ogc@einsteinmed.edu. Students and Postdoctoral fellows will receive information about the appeals process upon notification of the decision of the request for disability accommodations.

IV.E. Annual Renewal of Request

Owners must submit annual documentation of the Approved Animal's "Clean Bill of Health" documentation for renewal of the accommodation (the date of the initial application approval). Proof of vaccination records must be shared with the housing and facilities department every two years from the date of the initial application approval.

Proof of liability insurance must be shared with the housing and facilities department annually.

IV.F. Guests and Visitors

Guests of residents of student/postdoc housing who wish to bring a Service or Assistance Animal into student/postdoc housing overnight must contact the Housing Office in writing at least **fifteen (15) days** in advance to provide the dates of their visit, the type, and breed of the Service Assistance Animal, to attest to the Assistance Animal being up to date on vaccinations and comply with the requirements set forth in these guidelines.

IV.G. Conflicting Health Conditions and Aversions

Residents of Einstein housing with a medical condition or aversion who are affected by animals (e.g., allergies, asthma, respiratory conditions, zoophobia, etc.) for whom living near Service Animals or Assistance Animals would be problematic should contact the Office of Student Affairs, the Graduate Division or the Belfer Institute, as applicable. The Office of Student Affairs and the Belfer Institute will work with the Housing Office to reasonably accommodate residents with disabilities and residents who need accommodation when living in close proximity to Service Animals or Assistance Animals as may be required by applicable law. Conflicting health conditions and aversions will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

IV.H. Roommates

For housing residents who live with assigned roommates, please be advised that the Housing Office will notify the roommates within the housing assignment that the approved animal will be residing in a shared assigned living space (15 days before bringing the approved animal). If the roommates do not agree to live with an animal, the Housing Office will work with the parties to determine a resolution. Einstein reserves the right to move the parties to alternative housing assignments.

IV.I. Record Retention

Appeal applications and accompanying documentation shall be retained by the Office of General Counsel. Initial and annual documentation shall be retained by the Office of Housing and Facilities Department.

IV.J. Grandfathered Animals

All animals that were residing in student/postdoc housing prior to August 1, 2018, will be grandfathered only with respect to the medical documentation requirement under section IV.A.2(b), provided that the Owners register such animal(s) by completing the request form, signing the Rules and Responsibilities Agreement, and submit the "Clean Bill of Health" and vaccinations documentation for such animal(s). All students who currently have animals on campus must register their animal(s) by September 1, 2018.

IV.K. Unauthorized Animals

After September 1, 2018, to avoid fines, fees, or potential termination of the housing contract, any animal on campus must be registered and authorized or it will be removed from the campus within 48 hours.

IV.L. Responsibilities of the Owner of Service or Assistance Animal

Owners of Approved Animals must abide by the following rules and responsibilities. Failure to abide by these rules and responsibilities may lead to sanctions, fees, and fines including removal of the Approved Animal from the Einstein campus, including termination of the student/postdoc housing contract. These rules and responsibilities are also set forth in the [Rules and Responsibilities Agreement](#), which must be signed by the housing Owner and submitted as part of the required documentation.

Rules and Responsibilities for All Owners

1. The Owner must submit all required documentation as outlined in this Policy to the appropriate office.
2. The Owner agrees to abide by all other Einstein and student/postdoc Housing policies. An accommodation approved in accordance with this Policy does not constitute an exception to any other Einstein or student/postdoc Housing policy.
3. The Owner must display on their door a marker that will allow identification of apartments with animals in case of emergency. The door marker should be obtained from the Housing Office.
4. Approved Animals brought on campus must be under the control of the Owner at all times. The Owner must be in full control of the Approved Animal at all times (for example, leash, harness, crate, etc.). The Owner is solely responsible for the Approved Animal's well-being, care, and cleaning, including but not limited to regular feeding, bathing, grooming, daily care, and veterinary services.
5. The Owner of an Approved Animal that is a dog must walk the dog on a leash at all times while on Einstein property, including on residential premises. Einstein reserves the right to impose a fine on an Owner who fails to comply with this leash requirement.
6. Owners of animals with an approved service or emotional support animal (ESA) application are permitted to walk their animals in the designated fenced-in area and behind housing buildings. We kindly request that no animal walking is allowed within the central or front courtyard.
7. The Owner must comply with all applicable laws regarding the keeping of an Approved Animal and is responsible for making sure the Approved Animal does not disrupt Einstein or student/postdoc housing community.
8. Dogs as Approved Animals must be "housebroken," and cats as Approved Animals must be litter box trained.
9. Other small Approved Assistance Animals other than dogs and cats (i.e., gerbils, rabbits, guinea pigs, etc.) must be caged and may not be left loose while on campus, including in student/postdoc housing.
10. Approved Animals must be taken out of the building by way of the shortest and most direct path and must be maintained under standard restraints such as a carrier and/or collar when outdoors, in public areas, or in transit and must be confined to the residence when not in transit.

11. Fecal matter deposited on Einstein or student/postdoc housing grounds or within the facilities must be removed immediately and disposed of properly by the Owner. The Owner must arrange for immediate removal of fecal matter if the Owner is unable to perform the task personally.
12. The Owner will be financially responsible for expenses incurred above a standard cleaning or for repairs to Einstein property, including residential premises. Such expenses include but are not limited to losses, liability, claims, and harm to others caused by the Approved Animal. Examples of possible damages and their estimated costs are available at the Housing Office.
13. The Owner will hold Einstein and student/postdoc housing harmless in the event the Approved Animal goes missing or is injured. Einstein and student/postdoc housing staff are not responsible for the retrieval of the missing Approved Animal in the event the animal escapes or becomes lost. Furthermore, the Owner will hold Einstein and student/postdoc housing harmless for any claims, costs, expenses, suits, obligations, demands, damages, liabilities, judgments, and losses arising in connection with any physical or mental injury or disability to, or death of, any person or damage to or destruction of any property caused by, resulting from, incidental to, or growing out of any activity, act or conduct of the Owner's Approved Animal.
14. The Owner, at their sole cost and expense, must have appropriate liability insurance for the Approved Animal at all times while the Approved Animal is on Einstein property or student/postdoc housing.
15. The Owner must submit annual documentation of the Approved Animal's "Clean Bill of Health" documentation for annual renewal of the accommodation.
16. The Owner must notify in writing the office that approved if the Approved Animal is no longer needed as a Service Animal or Assistance Animal or is no longer in the residential facilities. To replace an Approved Animal, the Owner must complete a new set of required documentation for the new Service Animal or Assistance Animal.

Additional rules and responsibilities for Residents of Student/Postdoc Housing:

17. Approved Assistance Animals will remain in the Owner's assigned room and are not permitted in other students' rooms or the common or vacant areas of the residential facilities, and other areas within Einstein such as classrooms, academic buildings, administrative buildings, libraries, dining services areas, fitness center, pool, etc.
18. When an Approved Animal is left unattended by its Owner in student/postdoc housing, the Owner must secure the Approved Animal in the Owner's licensed space (e.g., the Owner's bedroom with the door closed) so that the Approved Animal cannot roam freely in any shared space in the apartment. This will allow Einstein or student/postdoc housing staff who routinely access the residential facilities for maintenance and other routine tasks to do so without posing a risk to the animal or staff.
19. The Approved Animal may not be left unattended overnight anywhere on campus, including student/postdoc housing.
20. In accordance with student/postdoc housing policies on pest control for all residents, the Owner's residence may be inspected for fleas, ticks, pests, and/or damage to the residential facilities once a

semester or as needed. The Housing Office will schedule the inspection and notify the resident in advance of the scheduled inspection. If fleas, ticks, or other pests are detected through inspection, the floor will be treated using approved fumigation methods by an approved pest control vendor. The Owner will be billed for the expense of any necessary pest control treatment.

21. Housing Office may remove or require the removal of the Approved Animal that poses a threat to the health or safety of others on campus, disrupts Einstein's educational environment and/or that of the residential community, or if the Owner does not comply with the rules and responsibilities as set forth in this Policy. It is the responsibility of the Owner to ensure the Approved Animal does not interfere with the quality of life of other residents on campus. This includes controlling noise violations by the Approved Animal (e.g., barking or other disruptive noise).
22. The Housing Office, Facilities Department, and Security Department have the right to inspect units with approved animals to ensure that the animal is not causing damage to the property.

V. Effective Date

Effective as of: 3 July 2025

History:

- 3 Jul 2025: Revised to align process and forms with housing vs. non-housing requests as opposed to role within the Einstein community.
- 1 Aug 2018: Initial publication.

VI. Policy Management and Responsibilities

Einstein's Office of General Counsel is the Responsible Office under this Policy. Einstein's Senior Associate Dean for Finance and Operations is the Responsible Executive, and Einstein's Senior Counsel is the Responsible Officer for the management of this Policy.

VII. Approved (or Revised)

DocuSigned by:

Jennifer Garner

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Responsible Executive

07/07/2025

Date