



Animal Agreement for Residents of RISD On-Campus Housing

Animals Classifications

- Unrestricted animals (animals that all residents are welcome to have, regardless of assigned residential housing) are limited to fish in an aquarium no larger than 10 gallons.
- Restricted animals are animals which must be registered with and approved by Residence Life and the Disability Support Services Office (DSS) as either an Emotional Support Animal (ESA), or as a Service Animal (**See information about Service Animals and ESAs below*). Restricted animals include dogs, cats, caged rabbits, caged rodents, caged birds, and terrarium reptiles. Other animals may be considered on a case-by-case basis. All animals must meet standard veterinary health and immunization requirements and must be in compliance with local laws and ordinances.

Service Animals

A Service Animal is defined as 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. Service animals are classified as working animals, and not pets. The work or tasks performed by a Service Animal must be directly related to the owner's disability. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, wellbeing, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.

Emotional Support Animal/Comfort Animal (ESA)

An Emotional Support Animal is a companion animal that provides therapeutic benefit to an individual with a disability and alleviates one or more symptoms of a disability. The animal is not individually trained and does not have certification. Unlike Service Animals, ESAs are not limited to dogs or miniature horses and can be other species of animal. Animals that are inherently dangerous, predatory, and carry zoonotic diseases will be reviewed by the RISD committee on a case by case basis. As a reminder: ESAs are not permitted anywhere on campus outside of the residence hall and those public areas where animals are allowed.

Non-allowable Animals (regardless of ESA status)

- Animals restricted by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or deemed harmful to large communities.
- Venomous reptiles.
- Carnivorous fish (with the exception of Betta fish).
- No swine, including “teacup pigs,” shall be kept within the limits of the city of Providence.
- Hoofed animals (horse, sheep, goats, cattle) with the exception of approved Service Animals.
- Chickens (due to city ordinances regarding space required for chickens).

Number of Animals

- Residents are permitted to own and have multiple fish occupying one aquarium not exceeding 10 gallons.
- Residents may have no more than one restricted class of animal. When approved, a resident may have a limit of one (1) cat, OR one (1) dog, OR one (1) rabbit, OR one (1) rodent cage containing one (1) rodent, OR one (1) aquarium/terrarium.
- Among restricted class animals, rodents must be kept in no more than one secure enclosure, reptiles must be kept in no more than one 10 gallon aquarium/terrarium. The number of fish, reptiles, or rodents should not exceed recommended capacities for the enclosure used.
- Residents are NOT permitted to have both a pet and an ESA nor Service Animal.

Common Animals

Fish - Permitted anywhere on campus

- Only non-carnivorous fish, with the exception of Betta Fish, are allowed.
- Tanks must be 10 gallons or less.
- Tanks must be emptied or transported out of the residence halls during break periods. *Abandoning of fish will result in the revocation of animal permissions.*

Dogs - Restricted Animal

- Must have size and breed approved. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- Must have all required immunizations up-to-date and a copy must be on file with the Office of Residence Life.
- Must be spayed or neutered at the appropriate age.
- Must use a flea/tick control system.
- Must have a current photo on file with the Office of Residence Life.
- Must not be an aggressive or fighting dog. All dogs must possess friendly and sociable characteristics towards others.
 - We strongly encourage owners to seek obedience and other forms of training for their dog.
- Must be licensed in the city of Providence.
 - Dogs are allowed to have dual residency.

- City of Providence dog licenses cost \$6 and can be obtained from Animal Control at 200 Terminal Rd, Providence RI, 02905. This tag must be worn with a current rabies vaccination tag. Please visit this link for more information <http://www.providenceri.com/animal/licensing>
- Must be taken outside for adequate bathroom breaks and exercise.
- Must be collared and on a leash at all times outside of owner's living space.
- Must have owner contact information on its collar or tags.
- A leash, harness, cape, or vest may be used to identify Service Animals who are on duty anywhere on campus.
- Must vacate the premises during breaks and when owner is away overnight.

Cats - Restricted Animal

- Must have all required immunizations up-to-date and a copy must be on file with the Office of Residence Life.
- Must have a current photo on file with the Office of Residence Life.
- Must be spayed or neutered at the appropriate age.
- Must have an appropriately maintained litter box.
- Must vacate the premises during breaks and when owner is away overnight.

Rabbits - Restricted Animal

- Must have all required immunizations up-to-date and a copy must be on file with the Office of Residence Life.
- Must have a current photo on file with the Office of Residence Life.
- Must have an adequately sized living pen/cage with a solid floor which allows for the rabbit to adjust their posture, turn around, sit upright with their ears fully erect without touching the top of the enclosure, and move around. This enclosure is typically 4-6 times larger than rabbit.
- Must have an appropriately maintained litter box.
- Must vacate the premises during breaks and when owner is away overnight.

Rodents - Restricted Animal

- Must have all required immunizations up-to-date and a copy must be on file with the Office of Residence Life.
- Must have a current photo on file with the Office of Residence Life.
- Must have an adequately sized cage with a solid floor which allows for the rodent to climb and move around. This enclosure is typically around 30"x20"x20" dependant upon Resident's type of rodent and its size.
- Must have appropriately maintained litter covering within cage.
- Must vacate the premises during breaks and when Resident is away overnight.

Terrarium Reptiles - Restricted Animal

- May not be venomous.
- Must have a current photo on file with the Office of Residence Life.
- Must have an adequately sized tank/terrarium with proper temperature, humidity, and light control.
- Must have appropriately maintained litter/floor covering within tank/terrarium.

- Must vacate the premises during breaks.

Registration of Animals

Prior to bringing any animal onto campus to reside with them in College housing, including ESAs and/or Service Animals, residents must register their animal with the Office of Residence Life via the housing portal.

- Residents should complete the animal registration form at least two weeks in advance. Failure to complete the registration form may result in denial or loss of permission to have an animal.
 - If forms are not submitted in time for move in, animals may be turned away or a fee may apply.
- Residents may have up to a 2-day grace period to complete the registration forms and submit any supporting documentation (veterinary records, licenses, etc.) should an animal be found residing in any of RISD's residence halls during routine room checks or via notification by an outside party.
- Residents with ESAs or Service animals are not required to contact and meet with DSS, but it is highly encouraged.

Standards of Behavior for Animal Ownership

Health, sanitary, safety, and behavioral standards must be maintained as outlined below. Above all else, owners are expected to appropriately and humanely care for their animal. Failure to maintain these standards may result in the loss of permission to have an animal, or the immediate removal of the animal by Providence Animal Control and placed in the care of a local animal shelter.

- Animals must not be left unattended for periods of time that negatively impact the welfare of the animal.
- All animals, with the exception of Service Animals, must be kept out of commonly utilized student areas, including lounges, study areas, work rooms, fitness room, etc., unless explicit permission is granted by those utilizing the space. Animals are only allowed in hallways and stairwells if they are being transported to and from the owner's living space.
- Animal feces must be disposed of properly and in a timely manner. It is the owner's responsibility to remove feces from RISD grounds, dispose of it in a plastic bag, and then place that bag in the garbage dumpsters outside. Clean-up must occur immediately.
- Animal urination, defecation, or vomiting within a living area must be promptly cleaned up using appropriate cleaning products. Owner is encouraged to submit a work request with Facilities Management for the area to be properly disinfected. The Owner is responsible for all costs associated with such a cleanup.
- Regular and routine cleaning of floors, kennels, and litter boxes must occur. The strong odor of animal emanating from the living space is not acceptable.
- Flea infestation must be attended to promptly and consultation with appropriate personnel is expected beforehand. Due to concern for other animals which may be residing within a owner's building, the office of Residence Life (housing@risd.edu) must be informed of the infestation upon recognition.

- Animals must not be allowed to disrupt others (e.g. barking continuously, meowing, yowling, howling, etc.). Animals that are a nuisance to other residents, as determined by the Residence Life Office, Public Safety or Facilities must be removed within seven (7) days of notification.
- Animals must not be involved in an incident where a reasonable person experiences either the threat of or an actual injury as a result of the animal's behavior, including bites, nips, jumping, scratching, etc.
- All liability for the actions of the animal is the responsibility of the owner.
- Resident will take all reasonable precautions to protect the property of RISD and its residents.
- Resident will immediately notify Residence Life and/or Public Safety if the animal has escaped its confines and is unable to be located.
- Violations concerning any of the aforementioned standards may result in the owner having to find alternative housing off-campus for the animal. It should be noted that having a animal is a privilege, not a right. The Office of Residence Life will make the final decisions in these matters.

Cleaning

Living space cleanliness, both during occupancy and post occupancy, may be a concern. Continued standards of cleanliness, as it relates to health issues, are expected.

- The owner has an obligation to make sure that their living space is as clean as the original standard which was established at move in. Continual cleaning throughout the owner's occupancy is expected. This also includes thorough cleaning and vacuuming of carpets (HEPA vacuuming), fabric window coverings, and RISD furniture and appliances. Damages to the living space and any replacements for furniture due to animals will result in the owner being charged post occupancy. Owner's with ESAs and Service Animals are not exempt from said charges.
- For the protection of future residents, in rooms where free-roaming animals (dogs and cats) have resided, a professional furniture and floor cleaning will be performed after the animal moves out at the expense of the owner.
- Prior to moving in, staff of the Office of Residence Life will complete a Room Condition Report (RCR) of each living space on campus. This initial report will be used to assess any damage to the living space post occupancy. The Office of Residence Life encourages owners to ensure that the original RCR is accurate when they sign it upon occupancy.

Significant Allergies to Animal Dander and Other Concerns

- Concerns of this nature will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. DSS will work in conjunction with the Office of Residence Life to alert potential roommates of the fact that an animal will be present in an effort to address concerns including those related to allergies and objections or fears related to certain types of animals as early as possible in the housing assignment process. Issues or concerns that may arise during the academic year should be reported as quickly as possible.
- Residents who have concerns about any matter affecting their use of a Service Animal or ESA should contact DSS.

Special Situations or Exceptions

- Students should contact DSS to discuss any special situations regarding Service Animals or ESAs that are not covered by this policy, as well as any exceptions to this policy that might be requested by a student. All exceptions must be approved in writing by DSS.

Important Considerations

- Residents will be required to meet with their Community Coordinator within their living space after the animal has been approved to ensure that proper steps toward care are being taken by the owner.
- An “animal in room” sign will be offered to owners at this time as a precaution in case of emergency. It is encouraged but not required to be displayed.
- Essential personnel on campus (e.g. Public Safety) will be provided with a list of residential animals on campus in case of emergency. This list will not indicate the reason for said animal residing on campus.
- The Office of Residence Life will notify roommates of residents with animals residing with them of such instance, however this notification will not indicate the reason for said animal residing within the space.

If any of the above stipulations are or become prohibitive of you having an ESA or a Service Animal, please contact the Office of Residence Life to have a conversation regarding reasonable exceptions.