



Marietta College Emotional Support Animal Policy

Pets

A “pet” is any animal kept for ordinary use and companionship. Emotional support animals, as defined below, are not considered pets.

Pets are generally prohibited indoors on Marietta College’s campus, except in housing, where small fish are sometimes permitted as pets. For more information on fish in residence halls on campus, please refer to the Marietta College Student Handbook.

Emotional Support Animals

An emotional support animal is defined as an animal that provides emotional or other support that ameliorates one or more identified symptoms of a person’s disability. Unlike service animals, emotional support animals are not required to be trained to perform work or tasks, and they include species other than dogs and miniature horses.

Unlike service animals, emotional support animals are generally not allowed to accompany persons with disabilities in all public areas of Marietta College. However, an ESA may reside in college housing, and may accompany the individual in all public or common-use areas of housing and may be needed to afford the person with a disability an equal opportunity to use and enjoy housing. Before an ESA can move into the residence halls with a person with a disability, a request must be made to the Academic Resource Center’s Assistant Director of Disability Services, and approval must be granted 30 days prior to move-in. If the disability for which the person request an emotional support animal is not obvious, the ARC will require documentation from a licensed physician or mental health provider, including without limitation, a qualified psychiatrist, social worker, or other mental health professional , who must provide sufficient information for the ARC to determine:

- 1) The provider’s diagnosis of the persons condition/disability;
- 2) The provider’s opinion that the condition effects a major life activity;
- 3) The provider’s opinion that the ESA has been prescribed for treatment purposes and is necessary to help alleviate symptoms associated with the person’s condition and/or to help the person use and enjoy residence life and the services;
- 4) The provider’s opinion of what the ESA will provide to the student in terms of how the ESA will alleviate and help lessen the impact of the person’s disability;
- 5) Any additional rationale or information that Marietta College may reasonably need to understand the basis for the professional opinion.

- 6) The Academic Resource Center's Assistant Director of Disability Services will review the documentation described above and, if he/she determines a qualifying disability exists, will arrange a meeting with a member from Office of Community Living and the person requesting that an ESA be housed in the residence halls. This policy will be carefully reviewed with the person at that time and an interactive dialogue will take place to determine whether or not the animal is a reasonable accommodation considering available alternative accommodations and the impact of the animal in the residence halls.

For more information, please contact the Assistant Director of Disability Services in the Academic Resource Center. You will be asked to provide Disability Services with clear, detailed documentation. A diagnostic statement must be made, and the documentation must be signed and on letterhead.

While ESA's are generally not allowed indoors on Marietta College's campus other than in housing, people with disabilities may request approval from the ARC's Assistant Director of Disability Services to have the support animal accompany them to other campus areas. Such requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis, consistent with applicable laws.

Responsibilities of People with Disabilities Using Emotional Support Animals

Marietta College is not responsible for the care or supervision of support animals. People with disabilities are responsible for the cost, care, and supervision of ESA's including:

- 1) Compliance with any laws pertaining to animal licensing, vaccination, and owner identification;
- 2) Keeping the animal under control and taking effective action when it is out of control; and,
- 3) Feeding and walking the animal and disposing of its waste.

For specific campus areas designated by Marietta College for toileting ESA's, please contact the Office of Community Living. Waste disposal via college plumbing is prohibited in the residence halls, but the Office of Community Living can provide guidance on where to properly dispose of animal waste.

Marietta College will not require surcharges or fees for ESA's. However, a person with a disability may be charged for damage caused by an ESA to the same extent that the College would normally charge a person for property damage they cause.

People with disabilities who are accompanied by ESA's must comply with the same rules regarding noise, safety, disruption, and cleanliness as people without disabilities.

Exceptions and Exclusions

Marietta College may pose some restrictions on, and may even exclude, an ESA in certain circumstances. As noted previously, ESA's are generally not allowed indoors on Marietta College's campus other than in the residence hall. Persons with disabilities may request approval from the ARC to have the ESA accompany them to other campus areas as a reasonable accommodation. Such requests will be

considered on a case-by-case basis, consistent with applicable laws. Any ESA may be excluded from an area in which it was previously authorized to be only if:

- 1) It is out of control and effective action is not taken to control it;
- 2) It is not housebroken (or in the case of an ESA that deposits waste in a designated cage or litter box, the owner fails to clean and maintain the cage or box such that the cleanliness of the room is not compromised); or
- 3) It poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others that cannot be alleviated by reasonable modifications practices, procedures, or the provision of auxiliary aids or services.

In considering whether an ESA poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others, Marietta College will make an individualized assessment based on reasonable judgment, current medical knowledge, or the best available objective evidence to determine:

- 1) The nature, duration, and severity of the risk
- 2) The probability that any potential injury will actually occur
- 3) Whether reasonable modifications of policies, practices, procedures, or the provision of auxiliary aids or services will mitigate the risk.

The ARC will provide a written statement of explanation to any person with a disability if a determination is made that the presence of that person's ESA would fundamentally alter the nature of a program, service, or activity. In the event that restriction or removal of an ESA is determined to be necessary, the person with a disability will still be given the opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without having the ESA present.

Guidelines for Notification and Rights of Marietta College Community

When a request for an Emotional Support Animal has been approved, the Office of Community Living staff will make a reasonable effort to notify the other residents in the housing where the Emotional Support Animal will be located. This notice will be limited to information about the animal's presence as an accommodation to a student: there will be no disclosure of the student's disability. Other resident students with medical condition(s) who are directly and negatively impacted by animals (e.g., respiratory diseases, asthma, severe allergies) are asked to contact Disability Services if they have health or safety related concerns about exposure to an Emotional Support Animal. Such effected students may be eligible for a disability accommodation when living in proximity to an Emotional Support Animal. Disability Services and the Office of Community Living will collaborate, as necessary, to resolve conflicts related to an Emotional Support Animal. Staff members will consider the needs and/or accommodations of all resident students involved.

All roommates of the Owner must agree in writing that the Emotional Support Animal will be in the residence with them. In the event that one or more roommates do not approve, either the Owner and the Emotional Support Animal or the non-approving roommate(s), as determined by the Office of Community Living, may be moved to a different location.

A paw print/Animal decal will be affixed outside the Owner's unit as a notification to the facilities staff that an animal resides in the unit. The owner or a roommate should be present during any scheduled maintenance visit.

Guidelines for Members of Marietta College's Community

To ensure equal access and nondiscrimination of people with disabilities, all members of the Marietta College community must abide by all of the following practices:

- 1) Allow service animals and ESA's to accompany people with disabilities on campus;
- 2) Do not ask for details about a person's disability;
- 3) Do not pet a service animal or an ESA, as it distracts the animal from its work;
- 4) Do not feed a service animal or an ESA;
- 5) Do not deliberately startle, tease, or taunt a service animal or ESA; and
- 6) Do not separate or attempt to separate a person from his/her service animal or ESA

If you have a disability that may be affected by the presence of animals, please contact the Assistant Director of Disability Services in the Academic Resource Center. Marietta College is committed to ensuring the needs of all people with disabilities are met and will determine how to resolve any conflicts or problems as quickly as possible.

Questions

Questions or concerns related to this policy should be addressed to the Assistant Director of Disability Services in the Academic Resource Center on the third floor of Andrews Hall. Phone: 740.376.4467



Marietta College
ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

Marietta College Emotional Support Animal Application

Part I. To Be Completed by the Student

Student Name: _____ MC ID # _____

Current Housing Assignment: _____ Number of Roommates: _____

Roommate(s) Name: _____

Please list the name and contact information for an emergency contact person in the event that you are hospitalized or are unable to care for the pet: _____

Date submitted: _____ for Term _____

Type of animal being requested: _____

Reason for requesting this type of animal:

Description of why this accommodation is needed:

I, _____, certify that the information presented on this application is true.

Student Signature

Date

Marietta College Emotional Support Animal Application

Part II. Documentation from Health Care Provider

Student Name: _____

Name of Health Care Provider: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

The health care provider should provide the following:

- 1) The provider's diagnosis of the persons condition/disability;
- 2) The provider's opinion that the condition effects a major life activity;
- 3) The provider's opinion that the ESA has been prescribed for treatment purposes and is necessary to help alleviate symptoms associated with the person's condition and/or to help the person use and enjoy residence life and the services;
- 4) The provider's opinion of what the ESA will provide to the student in terms of how the ESA will alleviate and help lessen the impact of the person's disability;
- 5) Any additional rationale or information that Marietta College may reasonably need to understand the basis for the professional opinion.;

This information should be provided on professional office letterhead and be included with this sheet.

The document(s) may be returned to the student to be submitted to our office, it can be sent to our office directly through our confidential Fax at 740.376.4406, or it may be sent through standard mail.

To send documentation or for any questions please contact:

Kristin English

Assistant Director, Disability Services

Marietta College, Academic Resource Center

215 Fifth Street

Marietta, OH 45750

740.376.4467 (phone)/ 740.376.4406 (fax)

Email: thomask@marietta.edu