

# Clarion University

## Residence Life Services

### Pet Policy

#### **Privilege**

Clarion University is providing its students with the unique privilege of having their family pet live with them on campus in designated facilities. Please, keep in mind that this is a special opportunity for Clarion University's students. The continuation of this privilege is solely dependent upon the administration and enforcement of this policy and the willingness of the students in abiding by the policy. While making the decision about bringing your pet to campus, please think through the advantages and disadvantages of caring for an animal and how the campus environment will affect your animal.

#### **Purpose**

Clarion University is providing this privilege to its students to make campus living feel a little more like home. It is still the university's priority to maintain a safe environment for the students, visitors, and other animals. It is expected of the students to help in keeping the campus safe and aesthetically pleasing. The expectations outlined in this policy will help in achieving this and allow the university to continue offering this privilege to the students.

#### **Glossary of Terms**

##### *Large Pets*

Large pets are defined as any cat, dog (under 40lbs when fully grown), large birds (i.e. cockatoos, parrots, macaws), ferrets, and chinchilla. Any large pet must be properly registered with Residence Life Services BEFORE the large pet is permitted to be brought into campus housing. Dogs must be at least **1 year old** and have lived with the requesting student's family for at least **6 months** prior to living in campus housing. Cats must be at least **6 months old** and have lived with the requesting student's family for at least **2 months** prior to living in campus housing. Large pets will only be permitted to live in designated campus housing and areas on campus. A student is not permitted to obtain a large pet, purchased, fostered, adopted, or stray while a current residential student at Clarion University. All pets must meet minimum requirements in age and living with the student's family.

##### *Small Pets*

Small pets are defined as fish, small birds (i.e. canaries, parakeets, finches), rats, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, amphibians (i.e. frogs, toads, salamanders), and small reptiles (i.e. geckos, bearded dragons, tortoises, turtles, non-venomous snakes less than 4 feet long). All small pets must be properly registered with Residence Life Services BEFORE they are permitted to be brought into campus housing. Small pets will only be allowed in designated areas of campus housing and areas on campus.

\*\*Residence Life Services has the final authority to decide which pets will be permitted to reside within housing.

#### **Large and Small Pets Permitted in Campus Housing**

Large pets and small pets are permitted in designated areas of campus. All small pets must be secured in a cage with a lid. A wet aquarium should not exceed 10 gallons. A terrarium may not exceed

20 gallons. Cage sizes may not exceed four feet tall or four feet wide. Each student may have an aquarium, terrarium or a four-foot cage but each apartment may not have more than two of these three options.

No pet that exhibits aggressive behavior will be permitted in campus housing. The owner of the pet is not permitted to breed any animal for any purpose (i.e., food, sale, etc.).

Exotic animals, animals illegal in the state of Pennsylvania, and those requiring special permits are not permitted in on-campus housing.

### **Number of Large and Small Pets Permitted**

On-campus residents are permitted **one** large pet per person or **two** small pets per person.

### **Assignments**

Once a request is completed to live in the animal-friendly LLC, Residence Life Services will review the request and all submitted paperwork. Assignments will be on a first come, first serve basis and will be made by the discretion of Residence Life Services.

Quantity of animals per four-person apartment:

- No more than two large animals (defined as cats or dogs)
- No more than four small animals in two of three options of aquarium, terrarium, or four-foot cage

Quantity of animals per two-person apartment:

- No more than one large animal (defined as cat or dog)
- No more than four small animals in two of three options of aquarium, terrarium, or four-foot cage

A combination of the above quantities may be approved depending on the animal type. Exceptions may be considered at the discretion of Residence Life Services.

### **Registration and Innoculation**

All pets must be registered and approved through Residence Life Services prior to the pet residing in campus housing. Failure to register a pet prior to bringing it to campus will result in an immediate \$300 fine.

A non-refundable pet fee for the entire academic year is \$200.00. The fee will be charged to the student account upon approval by the Residence Life Services office.

Students living in summer housing will be permitted to have their pet with them during the summer months. The summer non-refundable pet fee is \$100.00.

The university also recommends the student have liability insurance covering any damages, incidents or accidents.

Students seeking approval to register pets for on-campus housing must complete a Clarion University Pet Request form and provide the following supporting documentation to Residence Life Services: certification from a veterinarian that the pet has lived with the family for the time required by the Pet Policy. This can be done with supporting documentation showing the pet's required vaccinations/services over the years. Additional required materials are documentation of current vaccinations, spay/neuter procedure (dogs and cats), flea and tick treatment (dogs and cats), licensing (dogs), and a photo of the pet.

All pets must be in good health to live in campus housing. If a pet should fall ill for an extended period of time, the Residence Life Services office reserves the right to request the animal to be removed in order to reduce the potential of infecting another animal or creating an undue hardship to the owner or other residents.

### **Conduct Expectations**

1. Pets are only permitted in approved pet-friendly housing identified by Residence Life Services. All other buildings are prohibited.
2. The pet owner assumes all responsibility for the actions of his/her pet regardless of the circumstances.
3. Pet noise levels are to be kept at a minimum. Excessive barking, meowing, or any other animal noise that is disturbing to roommates or neighbors may be reported to Judicial Mediation Services which may result in removal of the pet.
4. Pets are not to be left unattended on campus for any reason including university breaks. The pet owner is expected to take the animal home or to an off-campus caregiver.
5. All licensing and rabies tags must be worn by the animal at all times.
6. Pets are only permitted to reside with the person they are registered to. No other person(s) living in campus housing will be permitted to house the animal at any time.
7. All pets must be housebroken. The use of training pads DOES NOT qualify as housebroken.
8. Pets are only permitted in designated housing areas.
9. All large pets are required to be on a leash when outside. Under no circumstances is a pet permitted to be unleashed or unsupervised outside (including in open grass areas and athletic fields).
10. Under no circumstances is a pet permitted to be unsupervised while outside of the student's bedroom.
11. Pets are not permitted in communal or public restrooms of any residence hall or apartment complex.
12. The pet owner assumes the responsibility to clean up after their pets. This is including, but not limited to, any waste; hair; and toys.
13. The owner must crate, cage, or station in terrarium/aquarium their pet when unattended in a permitted room.
14. No pet may exhibit aggressive behavior toward humans or other pets. If a pet has shown any aggressive behavior, the Residence Life staff may document the case and refer it to the Office of Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services. Consequences will be determined on a case by case basis.
15. The pet owner is solely responsible for proper care of the animal. Negligence or mistreatment of the pet will not be tolerated.
16. Failure to remove a pet from campus, when requested or during breaks etc., will result in a fine and conduct action will result.
17. Students are not permitted to bring wildlife or stray animals into campus housing at any time or under any circumstance. Conduct action and applicable fees and/or fines will occur if a student is found to have broken the policy.

## **Responsibility of the Owner**

All large pets must be on a leash when they are outside of their owner's residence hall or room. A leash is defined as a physical tether that would connect the owner to the animal.

Abandonment, abuse, or neglect of a pet will not be tolerated by Clarion University. In the case of abandonment, abuse, or neglect the animal may be removed, and the case will be documented and referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services.

Pets are not permitted to become a nuisance to the community within which it is living nor the campus community as a whole. A nuisance would be defined as, but not limited to, excessive noise, creating an excessive mess, physical harm to humans or other animals, and destruction of property. The office of Residence Life Services has the right to deem other acts as a nuisance and handle them in a manner fit for the situation.

The pet owner will be responsible for any damage to university property caused by their pet. This would include any additional cleaning or infestation treatment needed to restore the room(s) to its original state.

## **Responsibility of Clarion University**

### **Professional Staff**

Professional staff members, who live within campus housing are permitted to have a pet within campus housing. Please, see a Residence Life Staff member for a copy of the staff policy and deposit information.

### **Complaints**

Any member of the Clarion University community may file a confidential complaint or concern about the care of an animal or noise level of an animal. Each complaint will be reviewed by the appropriate office and handled in a manner that is appropriate for the situation. Non-compliance with a decision could result in the loss of the owner's privilege to live in pet-friendly housing and/or removal of the pet.

Residence Life Staff may enter apartments/rooms to check on animals to be sure they are being cared for appropriately.

### **Appeals**

If a pet owner wishes to appeal a decision to deny one's request to bring their pet to campus or an infraction of the pet policy, they may do so through submitting an appeal form to Residence Life Services. This must be done prior to bringing the pet to campus. The Residence Life Staff reserves the right to determine the outcome of appeals, and appeals will be reviewed by the Director of Residence Life.

Please include the following information in your appeal:

1. The age of your pet on the day you are submitting the appeal
2. Where is your pet currently living
3. Where and when did your pet become part of your family
4. A brief explanation of your situation and why you should be granted an exception to the policy
5. Description of how your pet interacts with other humans and animals (including any history of abuse).
6. Where your pet will reside if your appeal is denied

**Violation of Policy**

If any of the above outlines expectations of the policy are violated, the student may be subject to fines and/or discipline through the office Judicial and Mediation Services.