

# Dayton Housing Authority

## *Service and Assistance Animal Policy*

### General

A service animal is any dog that is individually trained to work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. For purpose of this definition, work or tasks do not include the provision of emotional support. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purpose of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability.

An assistance animal works, provides assistance, or performs tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, or provides emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's disability. Assistance animals perform many disability related functions, including but not limited to, guiding individuals who are blind or have low vision, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to sounds, providing protection or rescue assistance, pulling a wheelchair, fetching items, alerting persons to impending seizures, or providing emotional support to persons with disabilities who have a disability related need for such support. An assistance animal does not need to be individually trained or certified.

Service and assistance animals are not pets; breed, size, and weight limitations do not apply. However, the resident is required to provide verification of proper licensing (if required by law or ordinance) and inoculations.

Requests for service or assistance animals are considered a request for reasonable accommodation and may be made to Dayton Housing Authority either orally or in writing. It may also be made by others on behalf of the individual, including a person legally residing in the unit with the requesting individual or a legal guardian or authorized representative. Requests must be made to the Public Housing Manager or Executive Director. Assistance animals are a means to provide reasonable accommodation for an individual with a disability, but a person with a disability is not automatically entitled to have an assistance animal.

Requests for assistance animals are considered under Dayton Housing Authority's Reasonable Accommodation Policy. Dayton Housing Authority will consider the following in approving or denying the request for an assistance animal.

- Whether the person making the request for the assistance animal is a person with a disability; and
- Whether the person making the request has a disability related need for an assistance animal (does the animal work, provide assistance, perform tasks or services for the benefit of a person with a disability or provide emotional support that alleviates one or more of the identified symptoms or effects of a person's existing disability).

Approved assistance animals must be domesticated animals that are traditionally kept in the home for pleasure rather than commercial purposes. These include dogs, cats, small birds, rabbits, hamsters, gerbils, other rodents, fish, and turtles.

For purposes of this assessment, reptiles (other than turtles), barnyard animals, monkeys, kangaroos, and other non-domesticated animals are not considered common household animals.

Assistance animals will not be approved if the animal is a direct threat to the health or safety of others or would result in substantial physical damage to the property of others. Any damage caused by any assistance animal will be charged to the resident.

The resident is responsible for feeding, maintaining, providing veterinary care, and controlling his or her assistance animal. The resident may do this on their own or with the assistance of family, friends, volunteers, or service providers.

#### Care of Service Animals

The following health and safety policies will apply to service animals: These requirements may be met by the resident, family member, volunteers, or service provider(s).

- Assistance animals shall be provided with adequate food and water, in accordance with reasonable standards and proper care for the specific type of animal.
- Assistance animals shall be properly leashed and controlled when outside the dwelling unit or when a Dayton Housing Authority representative or designee is in or around the apartment for maintenance or modernization purposes, inspections, and/or administrative purposes regarding the lease. At no time may a service animal prohibit a Dayton Housing Authority representative or designee from gaining access to Dayton Housing Authority property.
- Residents must be responsible for the disposal of waste of the animal. Litter boxes and cages must be kept clean and sanitary and outside pet waste must be removed from the yard areas. This may also be done by the resident, family member, volunteer, or service provider.
- Two alternate custodians must be provided to Dayton Housing Authority to assume responsibility for the animal if the owner becomes ill or is absent from the dwelling unit. Animals shall not be tied or chained outside the unit.

\*The Request for Reasonable Accommodation form is attached. We recommend that requests be made using this form but it is not required. Individuals may submit their requests either in writing, orally, or by any other effective means of communication.

Dayton Housing Authority will notify you in writing of the approval of denial of the request.