

Animals on Campus

Students can request an alternate format of this document by contacting Accessibility Services

Tyndale University aspires to be an inclusive and discrimination-free institution. It is committed to creating an environment for all its students where they can participate and integrate into its strong community. As such the campus is a pet-free zone (including residence). However, the institution recognizes the need some students with disabilities have for Service Animals and Emotional Support Animals. Service Animals and Emotional Support Animals are essential to the independence of students with disabilities in various ways, and Tyndale University allows such animals on campus for students that show a documented need.

This document explains all the requirements of a Service Animal or Emotional Support Animal on campus. It outlines guidelines and procedures that must be followed to have Service Animals and Emotional Support Animals on Tyndale's property.

Definitions

Partner

Student partnering with the Service Animal to access assistance with daily tasks or partnering with an Emotional Support Animal for companionship.

Accessibility Services (AS)

The office responsible for promoting equal access to post-secondary education for students with disabilities.

Accessibility Specialist

The individual coordinating supports and services in collaboration with the broader Tyndale community for students with disabilities.

Student Development

The office responsible managing spaces in residence for students with disabilities.

Community Life Senior Manager

The individual responsible, with the Residence Director, for coordinating and assigning residence rooms, as well as promoting equal access to residence for students with disabilities.

Residence Director (RD)

The individual responsible, with the Community Life Senior Manager, for coordinating and assigning residence rooms, as well as promoting equal access to residence for students with disabilities.

Residence Assistant (RA)

The individuals responsible for connecting with residents within their dorm and helping them connect into the residence community.

Service Animal (SA)

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), 2005 defines a Service Animal as an animal performing tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability.

- Service Animals can be service dogs, signal dogs, guide dogs or any other animal.
- The animal may wear specialized equipment such as a backpack, harness or special collar.
- Service Animals are working animals, not pets.
- It might be readily apparent that the Service Animal partnership is related to the student's disability

OR

- If the student's disability is not obviously apparent, the medical documentation from a physician or nurse practitioner confirming the use of a Service Animal needs to be submitted.

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Partnership with a Service Animal

Service Animals perform a variety of daily tasks for students. Below is a list of common tasks performed by Service Animals for students with disabilities:

- Be an emotional or physical support when sensory stimulus increases
- Serve as a travel aid
- Help with mobility difficulties
- Alert partner to possible dangers
- Alert individual of specific sounds
- Warn or provide aid related to medical situations
- Guide partner out of crowds
- Retrieve or activate medical attention
- Retrieve or prompt partner to take medication

Animals meeting these criteria are considered Service Animals even if the animal is not licensed or certified as a Service Animal. As long as the animal is observed performing the disability-related task on behalf of its partner, it would be considered a Service Animal.

Emotional Support Animals (ESA)

An ESA is a companion animal that provides emotional support to alleviate identified symptoms or effects of a student's disability. They are typically a cat or dog, but other animals may also qualify. Unlike a Service Animal, they do not assist with disability-related activities of daily living or accompany the individual at all times.

ESAs are deemed appropriate by a regulated health care professional if supported by the student's medical needs and required to access campus residence.

Partnership with an Emotional Support Animal

ESAs are solely for the purpose of companionship and provide a therapeutic benefit to their partner by easing the emotional symptoms of the partner's disability. Due to the nature and use of an emotional support animal, once approved, they are **ONLY** allowed in the student's dorm room in campus residence and not permitted in any other areas of the campus.

I. Applying for a Service Animal or Emotional Support Animal

1. Students requesting partnership with of a Service Animal or Emotional Support Animal are required to register with Accessibility Services if they are applying to live in residence.
2. Supporting documentation from a regulated healthcare professional confirming the need of a SA (*only if not obviously apparent) or ESA for reasons related to the disability must be provided.
 - 2.1.1. Students can submit the Service Animal/ESA Section of the [Accessibility Registration Form](#) to access this accommodation.

Steps to Apply for SA/ESA for Residence

1. Contact Accessibility Services: Students who require an SA or ESA must self-identify and contact the Accessibility Office to access residence accommodations.
2. Obtain the appropriate documentation: Gather the required forms from AS to collect required disability-related information. Refer to [documentation requirements](#).
3. Submit documentation: Deliver your medical forms to the AS office.
4. Confirm approval: Student will receive written confirmation indicating the approval of a SA or ESA.
5. Register Animal: Students will be required to register the animal with AS and Student Development (if applicable).
6. Review animal care expectations and guidelines: Student must review and agree to animal care and code of conduct expectations.

Required Criteria to Qualify

Student:

- Has a disability as defined by the OHRC and AODA
- Registered themselves and the animal with Accessibility Services as early as possible
- Abides by the institutional code of conduct and guidelines

Animal:

- Is not a health or safety risk
- Is in good health
- Has a record of annual vaccinations from a veterinarian within the last 12 months
- Licensed with the City of Toronto
- Wears a valid vaccination and identification tag
- Behaves safely in public settings; demonstrates mastery of good behaviour and basic obedience abilities
- Is housetrained

For Service Animals

- The disability limits the student's ability to participate independently in activities of daily living
- The animal performs a specific task for the student related to their disability
- The animal is shown to perform the task(s) or has received certification as a Service Animal
- Be on a leash while on campus

For Emotional Support Animals (ESA)

- Student has a disability as defined by the OHRC and AODA
- Disability limitations support the need for therapeutic companionship provided by an ESA

- If the ESA does not reside in a tank, a cage, or a crate, the animal must be a minimum of 2 years old (e.g. cats, dogs)
- Be a small sized animal given the residence room sizes. Below are the required Crate, Cage, and Tank sizes permitted in residence:
- Crate – They must fit comfortably into a crate no larger than 24”x36” (this is a good size for a dog up to 50lbs).
- Cages – They must fit into a cage comfortably no larger than 31”L x 21”W x 29”H or 20”L x 16”W x 33”H.
- Tanks – They must fit into a tank comfortably no larger than 23 gallons.
- Animals that require live food are not permitted
- One animal permitted per person, except fish. Any concerns about other ESA's that cannot live in isolation should be brought to the attention of the Community Life Senior Manager.

II. Standards

Tyndale University embraces and respects the need for Service Animals and Emotional Support Animals for students with disabilities. We work cohesively as an institution to maintain a positive, safe, and healthy environment for all students. Therefore, the following standards apply when using a Service Animal or Emotional Support Animal on campus:

Standards of Practice

Accessibility Services works with the broader Tyndale Community to support students with Service Animals or ESAs. The role of Accessibility Services is to collaborate with the student in understanding their disability-related needs and align them with appropriate supports that will facilitate their participation at Tyndale while communicating the institutional standards.

For students living in residence, Accessibility Services will work with the Student Development team, including the Community Life Senior Manager and the Residence Director, to match the student's disability-related needs with available residence services.

Student Development will not limit room assignments, including room type or room location for students with Service Animals or Emotional Support Animals. However, due to capacity limitations, Student Development reserves the right to assign a single room to students with a Service Animal or an Emotional Support Animal.

Standards of Partnering

1. Only students registered and approved by Accessibility Office are permitted to have Service Animals or Emotional Support Animals in residence.
2. Emotional Support Animals are designated only to be in the student's residence room. ESA's can only go outside to relieve themselves or to get exercise. Otherwise, they are strictly prohibited outside of the student's residence room.
3. Service Animals are permitted on campus while on a leash when accompanied in close proximity to and work harmoniously with the partner. While not a legal requirement, it is highly recommended that Service Animals wear identifying equipment such as a vest.
4. All animals must have yearly vet checks. Documentation from the vet is to be submitted to Accessibility Services and Student Development. Certain animals may require yearly vaccines.
5. Care of the Service Animal or ESA is the solely the partner's responsibility. This includes clean up, feeding, physical activity and properly disposing of waste.
6. Partner must provide Emergency Contact Information on the Animal Registration Form who will take responsibility for the animal (Service Animal or ESA) if the partner is unable to care for the animal.

In Residence

Including the general standards, the following expectations and guidelines apply for animals in residence:

1. Care of the Service Animal or ESA is the partner's responsibility. If physically unable, partners must make all care arrangements. Resident Assistants (RA), or other residents are not obliged to help care for the animal. Care includes the following:
 - a. Clean up for the animal and proper disposing of waste
 - b. Animal excrement or used bedding is to be put in odour absorbing bags and placed in the trash rooms on their residence floor.

- c. Feeding and physical activity
- d. Health & Maintenance:
 - i. Animals in cages & tanks – living space must be cleaned regularly
 - ii. Animals with fur & claws – must be groomed regularly and nails trimmed.

2. Partners must ensure that there is no smell that emanates from their room due to the animal living there. If a smell is emanating from the partner's room, additional steps may be required.
3. The animals must be quiet. Repeated noise complaints can result in the animal being required to be removed from residence.
4. The animal should not interfere with the access and use of residence facilities by other residents or be obstructive in any way.
5. All food, bedding and other needs of the animal must be housed in the partner's room. Food and bedding must be kept in airtight containers.
6. None of the animals may reproduce or have litters while in residence.
7. All Service Animals / ESAs must return home with their partner if they go home for weekends, reading weeks, Christmas break, and summer break. As an ESA, the animal cannot be cared for by another resident at any time.
If the partner stays overnight outside of the residence, their Service Animal or ESA must accompany them. Tyndale is not responsible for any Service Animal or ESA while their partner is away.
8. Any damage done to furniture or the resident's room, beyond reasonable wear and tear, due to having an animal in the room will result in a replacement fee charged to the resident.
9. The partner's residence room may be inspected for fleas, ticks or other pests as part of the routine inspection. If fleas, ticks or other pests are detected and result in fumigation treatment, the partner will be billed for any pest treatment expense that is above the standard pest-control costs.
10. Any other personnel, including the Residence Director, Community Life Senior Manager, or other staff and residents, are not required to assist the animal in any way, unless they are required to remove the animal due to an emergency evacuation. All students must get themselves to safety first during all emergency evacuations. Emergency personnel will determine the best course of action given the nature of the emergency.
11. The student's room number will be placed on a list and in the event of an emergency evacuation, required personnel can be informed.

III. Animal Specific Expectations in Residence

Dogs, small to medium size breeds (no more than 50lbs):

1. As Emotional Support Animals, they are only permitted outside of their room for regular walks, outside, for exercise or to relieve themselves. They must be on a leash at all times when leaving the dorm room. All excrement is to be picked up by the owner and deposited in a trash bin found by the entrance doors before coming back inside. The owner is the only one who is permitted to take their dog out of the residence room.
2. All dogs must be obedience trained.
3. Basic obedience commands. The Community Life Senior Manager or Residence Manager will ask for a demonstration of obedience before the dog moves into residence. They may ask for documentation of where the dog was trained, if necessary. Basic obedience:
 - a. Come – this ensures that if the dog were to get loose that they would come back immediately.
 - b. Sit & stay – this ensures that the dog will stay where they are. There may be a resident or guest that is afraid of dogs, and this provides them with a safe environment.
 - c. Quiet – if the dog begins to bark or growl, they must cease when commanded. While living in residence noise carries, and it is important that the dog not contribute to the noise, especially at night.
 - d. Walk on a leash – this ensures that the dog remains at the side of their owner while on the leash. There are people that are afraid of dogs, and while in public it is important that they do not feel threatened by the dog.
4. Crate trained: while the student is away from the room, at classes or out for some time, the dog must stay in their crate. This prevents any chance of the dog escaping or doing damage to the room while their owner is away. A dog should not be in a crate for more than 8 hours at a time.
5. Yearly vaccinations for rabies is required, as stated in the *Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.*

H.7; R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 567: Rabies Immunization. Documentation of the checkup and vaccines is to be given to the Community Life Senior Manager or Residence Director to keep on file. Other vaccinations for Distemper, parvovirus, and canine hepatitis are highly recommended.

6. Minimum monthly grooming. Grooming is defined as a bath, brushing, and nails trimmed. Tyndale's plumbing system cannot handle pet hair, therefore, dogs cannot be bathed in residence. There is a Pet Valu at 7355 Bayview Ave. (Bayview Hills Mall, Thornhill, ON L3T 5Z2; Phone: 905-597-6400), that permits people to use their tubs to wash their dogs.
7. Regular exercise – to ensure the dog's optimal health and good behaviour.
8. They **must** be spayed or neutered. Documentation of the procedure is required.

Cats:

1. As an Emotional Support Animal, they are not permitted anywhere on campus outside of their room. Partners may take the cat outside the building if they like. However, the cat is to be on a leash or in a crate when outside.
2. Students with cats are responsible for their cat if they escape their room at any time, whether the owner is in the room at the time or not. Tyndale is not responsible for any lost or missing animals that have escaped their space.
3. Yearly vaccinations for rabies are required, as stated in the *Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.*

H.7; R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 567: Rabies Immunization. Documentation of the checkup and vaccines is to be given to the Residence Director to keep on file. Other vaccinations of rhinotracheitis, calicivirus and feline distemper are recommended.

4. Minimum of monthly grooming. Grooming is defined as brushing, nails trimmed and plastic covering on front claws. If you like to give your cat baths it must be done off campus, as our plumbing system cannot handle all the pet hair.
5. A covered litter box system must be used, along with odour absorbing cat litter, and odour-absorbing bags, must be used when collecting used litter and/or deploying a litter disposal system. For example, the Litter Box II disposal system is used to minimize the smell of the used litter (this can be found at any pet store).
6. They **must** be spayed or neutered. Documentation of procedure is required.

Animals in Tanks or Cages:

1. They must remain in their tank or cage at all times, except when the student is holding them for emotional support. They cannot be brought out of the dorm room unless they are in their cage and being removed from residence.
2. Their cages/tank must be kept clean and their excrement discarded into odour absorbing garbage bags and disposed of in the trash room.
3. As required, they must have regular vet examinations to ensure they are healthy and do not pose any health risk to other residents.
4. They must not be poisonous or dangerous to humans or other animals.

Removal of the Animal

The animal may be removed from university premises if the following occurs:

1. Standards and expectations are violated
2. If the partner is aggressive or harms another person, SA, or ESA. An incident report will be created, and the partner is required to meet with the Community Life Senior Manager to discuss the incident and the outcomes.
3. In case of health risks, concrete evidence such as medical documentation to support a claim for the removal of the animal is required
4. If the animal causes substantial property damage
5. The presence of the animal causes undue administrative or financial hardship
6. The animal is disruptive, and the partner is unable to control it
7. If other laws specifically state that animals must be excluded (e.g. Ontario Regulation 562, under the Health Protection and Promotion Act excludes live birds and animals from rooms where food is handled. The exception is allowed for service dogs only to be in areas where food is served, sold or offered for sale).

If the removal or exclusion of the animal occurs, the partner will be provided with one of the following options:

1. An alternate accommodation
2. Participation in an activity without the Service Animal
3. When the Service Animal's behaviour is under control, animal may be able to return

Appeals

Students who wish to appeal accommodation parameters or decisions, expectations and/or removal of animals can submit written requests to the Accessibility Office and Student Development. These requests will be brought to the attention of the Student Accessibility Advisory Committee, where these decisions will be addressed and resolved.