An assistance animal may be considered as a reasonable accommodation for a qualified person with a disability living in a housing accommodation where pets are otherwise prohibited. A person with a disability is a person who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one of more major life activities.

Tenants
- With a disability can ask for a reasonable accommodation to a no pets policy in order to have an assistance animal in their unit;
- Do not have to pay a fee or deposit for the animal;
- Are responsible for damages to the premises caused by the animal;
- Can file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) if discrimination is occurring.

Landlords/Housing Providers
- May request documentation from a treating health care or mental health professional, verifying that the person has a disability and that the assistance animal is needed to alleviate one or more symptoms of the person’s disability;
- Can deny the request if the specific animal poses a direct health or safety threat, an undue financial or administrative burden on the landlord, or if no disability related need is found;
- Can establish reasonable restrictions including, but not limited to, observing applicable leash and pick-up laws, vaccination requirements, cleaning up after waste and meeting other minimum sanitary standards.
- Can charge tenants for any damages caused by the assistance animal.

* Different laws apply to places of public accommodation, state/local government programs, air travel, or employment situations.

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The information provided complies with the Federal Fair Housing Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and Missouri Revised Statutes for access to housing.

For more information, go to https://disability.mo.gov/serviceanimals.htm

Governor's Council on Disability
For more information contact gcd@oa.mo.gov