

**Important information for Students Who Are Approved for**

**Emotional Support Animals (ESA's) and Service Animals**

The information provided below is meant to present some of the information provided in full in the service and assistance animal policy that can be found at <https://www.wellesley.edu/adr/General-Info/forms>. Please use both when coming to campus with an approved service or assistance animal. Complete approval to bring your animal to campus requires completion of the steps noted below as well as the information contained in policy.

**Checklist to Complete Before You Bring Your Animal**

Students must complete each of the bulleted items below before bringing their animal to campus.

* Notify Accessibility and Disability Resources (ADR) and your residence hall community director that you plan on bringing your animal. Include your residence hall name and room number.
* Complete the Release of information/Emergency contact form and upload it to AIM https://shasta.accessiblelearning.com/wellesley.
* Provide and upload the AIM recent veterinary verification that your animal is healthy. Dogs, cats, ferrets must have also have updated rabies vaccinations on file with the town of Wellesley as well. https://www.wellesleyma.gov/1259/Bylaws-Regulations
* Upload a photograph of your animal to AIM https://shasta.accessiblelearning.com/wellesley.
* Provide and upload to AIM a copy of Wellesley town licensure for dogs only which can be obtained by applying online or by mail.  https://www.wellesleyma.gov/151/Dog-Licenses

**General COVID-19 Owner/Animal Procedures**

* Service and ESA animals that must come into contact with people should also maintain a six-foot distance from other people and animals, whenever possible.
* While disinfectants and harsh chemicals should absolutely not be used on the animal itself, frequent disinfection/cleaning of harnesses, leashes, toys (with soap), and food dishes is recommended.
* During concerns with COVID-19, all ESA animals must remain in the owners room except when there is a need to take the animal outside (no residential common space access). Those with service animals should contact ADR to discuss their own particular needs.
* Owners noticing that their animals are showing symptoms of sickness must notify both a veterinarian and a member of the Residential Life staff.
* ESA's are only allowed in the owner's room and to enter or exit the building. During Covid-19 concerns/until further notice, no common space access other than this is allowed.

**Quarantine Procedures**

The College has identified some limited residential space that is appropriate when needed for quarantining owners who have been exposed to the virus. If there is a space available to successfully quarantine owners with their animals that includes an entrance especially in the case of a dog that needs walking and the animal can be safely walked outdoors, the owner and animal will be assigned that space. Efforts will be made to allow Owners to quarantine with their animals. However, in cases where there is no appropriate space to accommodate the Owner and meet the care needs of the animal, the emergency contact will be used to care for the animal during the quarantine period.

**Isolation Procedures**

The College has also identified some limited residential space that is appropriate when needed for isolating owners who have been diagnosed with or have the virus symptoms. If there is space available to successfully isolate owners and if the owners are able to care for the animal and the animal does not need to leave the assigned residential space, the owner and animal may be assigned the isolation space together. In cases where the owner is not able to care for the animal or the animal such as a dog needs to be walked outside of the isolation space, the emergency contact will be notified to remove the animal from campus to ensure that others do not get exposed and for the safety of the animal.

*These COVID-19 procedures have been in part adapted from CDC guidelines.*

**\*Note that the College can deny an ESA or revoke an ESA if the College determines the animal poses a threat of causing the spread of COVID or other disease.**

*Questions may be directed to Wellesley College Accessibility and Disability Resources, accessibility@wellesley.edu,781-283-1300.*