

HMSC Housing - Service and Emotional Support Animals

Oregon State University (OSU) and the Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC) are committed to following applicable state and federal regulations and university policies which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability. HMSC housing accommodations are provided through HMSC in collaboration with Disability Access Services (DAS) and the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access (EOA).

HMSC campus in Newport, Oregon, offers several types of communal housing to students, interns and faculty studying or working at HMSC. This includes the various agencies located at HMSC, as well as several HMSC community partners. At this time, HMSC has no single room accommodations. HMSC housing is guided by the [OSU Service & Emotional Support Animal Policy](#) (1/18/19) when accommodating service animals or when considering requests for emotional support animals in housing, even for non-OSU housing occupant requests.

Definitions:

Service Animal - Any dog* individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability and meets the definition of “service animal” under the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) regulations at 28 CFR 35.104. The work or tasks performed must be directly related to the individual’s disability. (*see 28 CFR 35.104 for further definition.)

Emotional Support Animal – An emotional support animal is one that is necessary to afford the person with a disability an equal opportunity to use and enjoy HMSC housing. An emotional support animal may provide physical assistance, emotional support, calming, stability and other kinds of assistance. Emotional support animals do not perform work or tasks that would qualify them as “service animals” under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Emotional support animals that are not service animals under the ADA may still be permitted, in certain circumstances, in HMSC housing pursuant to the Fair Housing Act.

Service Animals in HMSC Housing:

HMSC housing applicants are strongly encouraged to inform HMSC housing that they plan to have a service animal with them in student housing. Advance notice of a service animal may allow more flexibility in meeting the request for housing. HMSC housing can be contacted at: hmsc_housing@oregonstate.edu or 541-867-0203.

HMSC generally allows service animals in housing when the animal is accompanied by an individual with a disability who indicates the service animal is trained to provide, and does provide, a specific service to them that is directly related to their disability.

HMSC may not permit service animals when the animal poses a substantial and direct threat to health or safety or when the presence of the animal constitutes a fundamental alteration to the nature of the program or service. HMSC will make those determinations on a case-by-case basis.

In general, HMSC will not ask about the nature or extent of a person’s disability, but may make two inquiries to determine whether an animal qualifies as a service animal. HMSC may ask:

- If the animal is required because of a disability and;
- What work or task the animal has been trained to perform.

HMSC cannot require documentation, such as proof that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal. Generally, HMSC may not make any inquiries about a service animal when it is readily apparent that an animal is trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability (e.g., the dog is observed guiding an individual who is blind or has low vision, pulling a person's wheelchair, or providing assistance with stability or balance to an individual with an observable mobility disability).

Specific questions related to the use of service animals can be directed to the ADA Coordinator via e-mail, eoas@oregonstate.edu, or phone, (541) 737-3556.

HMSC Emotional Support Animal Accommodation Process:

HMSC housing applicants must apply for an Emotional Support Animal Housing Accommodation to inform HMSC housing that they plan to have an emotional support animal with them in student housing. Accommodation requests will be evaluated by HMSC and either OSU Disability Services or OSU Equal Opportunity and Access even for non-OSU housing occupant requests.

- If the potential occupant is an OSU student, then HMSC and OSU Disability Services (DAS) will evaluate the request.
- If the potential occupant is non-OSU, then HMSC and OSU Equal Opportunity and Access (EOA) will evaluate the request.

The applicant will need to follow these steps to be considered for an Emotional Support Animal housing Accommodation at HMSC.

1. [Apply for housing at HMSC](#) and identify the need for an emotional support animal accommodation in the *Additional Requests* box on the application form. Submit applications to: hmsc_housing@oregonstate.edu.
2. Have an appropriate qualified professional complete the [Request for Accommodation](#) form and send to hmsc_housing@oregonstate.edu.
3. Register with the appropriate OSU agency and provide appropriate documentation to DAS or EOA.
 - ▶ Click [here](#) to register with DAS for OSU applicants.
 - ▶ Click [here](#) to register with EOA for non-OSU applicants.

Once your HMSC Housing Application and Request for Emotional Support Animal Housing Accommodation form have been submitted to the HMSC housing office, the housing office will then forward the Request to the appropriate agency (DAS or EOA) for evaluation. The final decision regarding the requested accommodation will be communicated via email to the applicant.

Please note:

- a. If the applicant brings an emotional support animal into housing without completing the review process, the applicant could be removed and/or denied HMSC housing.
- b. A accommodation may not be approved if it presents an undue financial or administrative burden to HMSC, poses a substantial and direct threat to personal or public safety or constitutes a fundamental alteration of the nature of the service or program.

- c. If your request is approved, housing assignments will be made based on availability of housing and approved housing accommodations.

Resources:

- [OSU Equal Opportunity and Access](#)
- [OSU Service and Assistance Animal Policy](#)
- [OSU Disability Access Service](#)
- [OSU Housing Accommodations](#)