



## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION Re: Assistance Animal

### Assistance Animal Defined

An assistance animal is an animal that provides emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's disability.

*Unlike a service animals, an assistance animal does not perform ADA-defined "work" or "tasks" and thus is not generally permitted to accompany a person with a disability at all times. Therefore, although assistance animals may be considered for access to University housing, they are not generally permitted in other areas of the University, except as outlined in the Pet Policy in the CWRU Handbook.*

**Student's name:**

**Name of animal (if applicable):**

**Type of animal:**

**Age of animal:**

The above-named student has indicated that you are the (physician, psychiatrist, social worker, mental health worker) who has suggested that having an Assistance Animal in the residence hall will be helpful in alleviating one or more of the identified symptoms or effects of the student's disability. So that we may better evaluate the request for this accommodation, please answer the following questions:

### Information About the Student's Disability

*(A person with a disability is defined as someone who has "a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.")*

Please state the diagnosis and explain the nature of impairment (that is, how is the student substantially limited?)

Does the student require ongoing treatment?

How long have you been working with the student regarding this mental health diagnosis?

### **Information About the Proposed Assistance Animal**

Is this an animal that you specifically prescribed as part of treatment for the student, **or** is it a pet that you believe will have a beneficial effect for the student while in residence on campus?

What symptoms will be reduced by having the Assistance Animal?

Is there evidence that an Assistance Animal has helped this student in the past or currently?

### **Importance of Assistance Animal to Student's Well-Being**

In your opinion, how important is it for the student's well-being that the Assistance Animal be in residence on campus? What consequences, in terms of disability symptomology, may result if the accommodation is not approved?

Have you discussed the responsibilities associated with properly caring for an animal while engaged in typical college activities and residing in campus housing? Do you believe those responsibilities might exacerbate the student's symptoms in any way? (If you have not had this conversation with the student, we will discuss with the student at a later date.)

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this form. If we need additional information, we may contact you at a later date. We recognize that having an Assistance Animal in the residence hall can be a real benefit for someone with a significant disability, but the practical limitations of our housing arrangements make it necessary to carefully consider the impact of the request for an Assistance Animal on both the student and the campus community.**

**Please provide contact information, sign and date this questionnaire (below), and return it to Disability Resources.**

Contact information:

Address: Telephone:

FAX and/or Email address:

Professional Signature:

License #:

Date: