

Assistance Animals

In a housing accommodations (residential settings)

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

An assistance animal is an animal that works, assists, performs tasks, or provides emotional support for the benefit of a person with a disability.

Assistance animals are not limited to service animals that are trained to perform a task. They may include emotional support, comfort, companion, or therapy animals. An assistance animal does not have to be a dog. Other animals can be recognized as assistance animals.

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 or more major life activities.*
- *A housing provider may ask a resident to provide information from a treating health care professional, mental health professional, or other credible verification that the person has a disability and that the assistance animal is needed to alleviate one or more symptoms of the person's disability.*
- *IF approved, reasonable restrictions may be established on the use of an assistance animal. This includes, but is not limited to, observing applicable laws such as leash and pick-up laws, vaccination requirements, assuming responsibility for damages, cleaning up after waste and meeting other minimum sanitary standards.*
- *Assistance animals that do not meet the definition of a service animal are not required to be allowed in locations other than the person's residence (such as public accommodations, commercial facilities, government programs) as those locations are governed by other laws.*



State of Hawaii (12/19)

The information provided complies with the Federal Fair Housing Act and Hawaii State Law, Chapter 515, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for access to housing.

For more information, go to

<https://labor.hawaii.gov/hcrc/files/2019/12/HCRC-flyer-assistance-animal-FINAL-10.15.2015.pdf>

Disability and Communication Access Board

For more information contact dcab@doh.hawaii.gov