

Pet Policy

WSU Housing and Residence Life Apartments

Updated September 2025

Statement of Values

The staff of WSU Housing and Residence Life works to provide you with a comfortable, safe and convenient apartment while attending the University. We want you to have as much freedom as possible in your personal life, while assuring a satisfactory and comfortable life for the entire community. Since this is a long-term housing community providing homes for many students for years to come, the University must see that its interests concerning the property and reputation of its units are respected. Ultimately, the successful operation of the community depends on the cooperation of its residents. Keeping with this philosophy, we have decided to adopt a limited pet policy that will allow residents committed to responsible pet ownership to have a pet. In reaching this decision, WSU Housing and Residence Life has taken into account the important contributions that pets can make to the lives of people who value and appreciate animals. WSU Housing and Residence Life has also considered the fact that there are people who wish to avoid contact with pets and other animals. The pet policy is designed to protect both pet owners and non-pet owners, and to ensure that the animals themselves receive responsible care. The policy applies to all pets kept in WSU Housing and Residence Life and will be strictly enforced. All residents may receive a copy of the policy. By agreeing to this pet policy, the resident agrees to abide by the terms of this agreement.

Failure to adhere to the terms of this agreement will constitute a default under Resident's Apartment Agreement and will give WSU Housing and Residence Life the right to initiate a proceeding to terminate the Apartment Agreement of the Resident. In the event of termination, Resident will be responsible for all associated fees.

PET POLICY

1. Permission to keep a pet is granted at Housing and Residence Life's sole discretion and is subject to Resident's strict adherence to all aspects of this Pet Policy. Any Resident who wishes to keep a pet will first obtain Housing and Residence Life approval. Resident must sign and submit a Pet Addendum Agreement and provide a photo of each pet before a pet will be approved.
2. Only common, domesticated, household pets will be allowed. These include dogs, cats, fish, birds, and small caged animals, kept as companion animals. Requests to keep a pet of any other species will be approved at Housing and Residence Life's discretion. No apartment unit will be approved for more than two pets. Any breed or species of pets that are prohibited by WSU Housing and Residence Life or which increase the cost of WSU Housing and Residence Life's insurance coverage will not be allowed.
3. In making a decision on whether to approve a Resident's request to keep a dog, Housing and Residence Life will take into account the dog's temperament and the arrangements the Resident has made for care, training, and exercising the dog. In making a decision on whether to approve a Resident's request to keep or obtain a puppy, Housing and Residence Life will further take into account the arrangements the Resident has made for care and training of the puppy.
4. Pets are to be kept inside the Resident's Apartment. Pets going in and out of the Apartment must be under the Resident's control at all times, including the restraint of the animal by means of a leash or other device (no longer than 8 feet) that physically restrains the animal to the keeper's immediate proximity or otherwise

securely confined (e.g. in a vehicle or crate) as outlined in [WAC 504-36-020](#). Pets are not allowed in complex shared access spaces such as laundry rooms, storage areas, community centers, or playgrounds. Pets cannot be kept or left unattended on decks, porches, entryways, or elsewhere on WSU property outside of the Resident's home. Food and water dishes must be kept inside the apartment. They are only allowed outside the apartment/residence hall while there is human supervision – they may not be left outside unattended. Food should be stored in airtight containers to ensure rodents/pests do not enter the facilities in search of animal food. It is recommended that water dishes and food dishes should be regularly cleaned.

5. Residents are responsible for keeping all areas where pets are housed clean, safe, and free of parasites, including fleas. Pet owners must IMMEDIATELY pick up and dispose of, in a sanitary manner, all waste deposited in the parking lot, sidewalks, or grounds. Owners of animals that utilize litter/cage lining/pee pads/etc. must place soiled items in a tied plastic bag and dispose of the bag(s) in appropriate garbage receptacles. In order to minimize the impact on our exterior spaces, areas where animals relieve themselves outside must be varied due to the high ammonia content in urine and feces.

6. All pets must receive proper veterinary care, including all appropriate inoculations, must be well-groomed, and must be given a healthy diet and exercised according to their needs. All pets must also be maintained in accordance with applicable state and local laws. Dogs and cats must wear identification tags at all times.

7. No pet is to be left alone in a Resident's Apartment for a period longer than that which is appropriate in light of the individual needs of the individual pet. While this period may vary depending on the pet in question, WSU Housing and Residence Life and the Resident understand that, in general, puppies should not be left alone longer than 4 hours, adult dogs should not be left alone for more than 9 hours, and other pets for not more than 24 hours on a regular basis. When Housing and Residence Life has reasonable cause to believe a pet is alone in an Apartment and either that pet is creating a disturbance or any other emergency situation appears to exist with respect to that pet, Housing and Residence Life or WSU Housing and Residence Life's agents or employees will attempt to contact the Resident to remedy the situation. If Housing and Residence Life is unable to contact the Resident within a reasonable period, Housing and Residence Life or Housing and Residence Life's agents or employees may enter Resident's Apartment and make any necessary arrangements for the pet's care, including removing the pet and placing it in a temporary home, such as a boarding kennel. Any costs incurred will be charged to the Resident's Housing Account.

8. Resident is responsible for ensuring that their pet does not disturb or annoy other Residents or neighbors. Residents whose pet is determined by Housing and Residence Life to be disturbing others must remedy the situation immediately. A Resident who fails to remedy the situation after two warnings will receive a 10-day notice to remove the pet from the premises. If the pet injures a human on WSU property, Housing and Residence Life may immediately issue notice to remove the pet from the premises. If the Resident fails to remove the pet when notified, the Resident will be considered in breach of the Resident's Apartment Agreement and WSU Housing and Residence Life will terminate the tenancy of the Resident. In the event of termination, Resident will be responsible for all associated fees.

10. Resident shall be liable for any damage or injury whatsoever caused by the pet and shall pay WSU Housing immediately, upon demand, for any and all costs incurred by WSU Housing as a result of damage or injury caused by the pet. Proof of personal renter's insurance is required to be submitted by the Resident. In addition, each Resident who wishes to keep a pet must pay a \$400 non-refundable pet fee upon signing the pet addendum agreement.