



Department of Residence Life Pet Policy

Section I. Purpose

SHSU Residence Life allows resident students the privilege to keep their pet on-campus, in designated residential facilities, while the student is enrolled in classes. SHSU is committed to providing a safe and well-maintained environment for all residents. It is the responsibility of the Pet Owner to protect the rights of all students, uphold a safe and healthy living and learning environment, take adequate care of their pet, and practice behaviors that support the upkeep of facilities and the physical beauty of the residential areas. Students who bring a pet to SHSU are responsible for understanding and abiding by the regulations of the Pet Policy. Every Pet Owner is encouraged to carefully consider the advantages and disadvantages of the campus environment for their individual pet.

Pet Owners assume all responsibility for pet actions regardless of circumstances. Pet Owners are liable for any harm or damage their pet causes to another person, animal, or personal and/or University property. SHSU is not responsible for injury or damage to pets resulting from any cause including, but not limited to, wildlife encounters, vehicles, fire or burns, inclement weather, and evacuation plans. Also, SHSU shall not, under any circumstances be held liable for personal injury or damages caused by the animal. The Pet Owner agrees to indemnify and hold SHSU harmless from all payments, expenses, costs, attorney's fees, and all claims and liabilities for losses or damages to property or injuries to persons caused wholly or in part by or resulting from the approved pet. Likewise, Pet Owners must respect requests by any member of the residential community who do not wish to interact directly with their pet by appropriately restraining their pet and keeping their pet at a safe distance.

The Executive Director for Residence Life or their designee is responsible for overseeing successful pet registration processes. Non-refundable pet registration fees support the materials, educational workshops, and general needs to uphold and improve facilities for animals housed on-campus at SHSU.

Section II. Guidelines for Approval

1. Approved cats and dogs are only permitted in Bearkat Village buildings A - I, Copper Village, and San Jacinto Hall Studio units. Pets are not allowed in any other residential facilities or campus buildings.
2. Only common household pets will be approved under this policy. These types of animals are limited to cats, dogs, and fish in tanks of 10 gallons or less. All cats and dogs will need to be registered with SHSU Residence Life. *Fish do not need to be registered, nor are owners required to live in areas where pet dogs and cats are allowed, or pay the non-refundable \$300 Pet Registration Fee annually.* Residence Life has discretion in



determining whether an animal will be approved as a pet under this policy, but in no case will farm animals, production animals, lab animals, reptiles, spiders, or other exotic animals be approved.

3. Only one pet per resident, except for fish. Cats and dogs must meet the following requirements for approval eligibility:
 - a) Must be at least 1 year of age.
 - b) Must weigh no more than 60 pounds fully grown.
 - c) Must be housebroken and crate trained.
 - d) Must always wear collars and permit tags (ex: Rabies).
 - e) Must be spayed or neutered.
4. Required immunizations for all cats and dogs must be kept up-to-date and a copy of the immunizations record must be on file with the Residence Life Department. All approved pets must comply with applicable laws and ordinances regarding animals and their treatment and care.
5. The Pet Owner will be required to pay a non-refundable \$300 Pet Registration Fee every academic year. Non-refundable Pet Registration Fees support the materials, educational workshops, and general needs to uphold and improve facilities for animals housed on-campus at SHSU. The Pet Owner is responsible for all damage costs incurred during occupancy.
6. For safety purposes, the following dog breeds are prohibited: Rottweiler, Doberman, Bull Mastiff, Chow, Canario, Akita, Staffordshire Terrier, Alaskan Husky, Alaskan Malamute, German Shepherd, St. Bernard Boxer, Great Dane, Dalmatian, and Wolf breeds. Other large dog breeds are also subject to the discretion of the Executive Director for Residence Life or designee.
7. Approved Pet Owners may bring his/her pet into his/her assigned room, into hallways, stairwells and other common areas in the building that are along the route to the assigned room. Pets are not allowed on University furniture in common areas.
8. Fish in aquariums not exceeding 10 gallons per room are permitted in all residential facilities. Fish do not require an approval process, and students bringing fish are not required to pay the non-refundable \$300 Pet Registration Fee.

Section III. Approval Process

The only approved pets are domesticated cats and dogs. All cats and dogs must be registered and approved by Residence Life prior to residing on-campus. All registered pets are valid for one academic year (fall, spring and subsequent summer sessions). If a student is approved in the spring or summer of the current academic year, they must re-register their pet for any future academic years.



The Pet Owner must obtain approval from the Executive Director of Residence Life or designee through the process outlined below:

1. To be approved, the pet must meet the standards described in **Section II**.
2. The Pet Owner must provide the following:
 - a) On-Campus Pet Registration (located within Student Housing Application)
 - b) Current photo of animal
 - c) Current record of standard cat or dog vaccinations (including rabies vaccination)
 - d) Proof of age (must be at least 1 year old)
 - e) Proof of spay or neuter procedure
 - f) Have an Emergency Contact who is within reasonable driving distance and does not reside on-campus
3. Residents will be notified via SHSU email of approval/denial within 10 business days from receiving the completed pet application. If a resident brings a pet to campus prior to receiving approval, this may result in SHSU disciplinary sanctions, fines, and potentially the loss of on-campus pet privileges for the resident.
4. If otherwise approved as described above, the Pet Owner will be required to pay a non-refundable \$300 Pet Registration Fee. The fee will be placed on the student account after approval, and must be paid in a timely manner.
5. Approved pets will only be housed in Bearkat Village buildings A - I, Copper Village, or the San Jacinto Hall studio units. The resident must have a booking to one of the approved locations.
6. Approved pets will be given a two-week acclimation period at the time of move-in. If the pet does not acclimate within the two-week period, or in extreme circumstances, Residence Life reserves the right to revoke pet approval and require that the pet is removed from campus.
7. Pet Owners will be responsible for any damages or extraordinary cleaning fees caused by the pet. The additional expenses will be billed to the Pet Owner's student account.

Section IV. Standards of Behavior by Animal and Animal Owner residing in University Housing

- All approved Pet Owners may only have the approved cat or dog. No other types of animals are permitted. The animal must wear the appropriate collar tags (tag with pet's name, Pet Owner's name, contact number, and rabies vaccination tag).



- All pet owners must properly maintain the hygiene, health and vaccination of their animal. The Pet Owner must feed and provide water for the animal inside the apartment. Animal food or water may not be left outside the resident's apartment at any time. The Pet Owner must provide SHSU with up-to-date vaccination records.
- The animal must be housebroken. The Pet Owner is responsible for removing feces from University grounds, disposing of it in a plastic bag, and then placing that bag in an outside garbage dumpster, in a timely manner. Animal feces must never be placed into the building's garbage cans or into the small trash cans available on University property. The Pet Owner agrees to carry appropriate disposal tools (i.e., plastic bags) with them at all times when taking the animal outside onto University property.
- The animal must be maintained in a manner that does not disturb other residents, including roommates, due to noise, odor, etc. The Pet Owner must respond to complaints from other residents. In the event a formal grievance is filed with the Department of Residence Life, a review will be held and the decision to allow the animal in the residential facility may be revoked or altered.
- To minimize the possibility of pest and allergy problems, it is recommended that the Pet Owner utilize a veterinarian-recommended pest control program. The Pet Owner's living accommodations may be inspected for fleas, ticks, or other pests, if necessary, as part of SHSU standard or routine inspections. Should fleas, ticks, or other pests be found while the student is occupying the space, a pest control treatment will be requested and a cost of \$75 will be added on the Pet Owner's student account. A checklist for treatment preparation will be provided prior to treatment. Failure to comply with the treatment checklist and/or not be ready for the scheduled treatment will result in a \$50 rescheduling charge. Should the pest issue warrant subsequent treatments, each treatment will be a \$75 charge to the Pet Owner. Once all residents fully vacate the unit, a pest control treatment will be conducted at no cost to the resident.
- Pet gates across bedroom doors, front doors, and hallways that could impede fire egress are prohibited. This is to maintain a clear path for fire egress and safety as required by state and local fire codes.
- Animals must not be left overnight in residential facilities to be cared for by any individual other than the Pet Owner. If Pet Owner is to be absent from their apartment overnight or longer, the animal must accompany the Pet Owner or the Pet Owner must make accommodations to board the animal off-campus, at the Pet Owner's personal expense.
- Animals must never be left alone outside of the apartment and should not be tied to any fixed object anywhere outside of the apartment.
- Pet Owners are responsible for ensuring that the pet is contained, as appropriate, when the Pet Owner is not present (i.e. in class). Crating, caging, and stationing pets when unattended is required for protecting the safety of the pet and University staff when



maintenance for the apartment is scheduled. It is the Pet Owner's responsibility to notify University Maintenance that a pet is present when submitting a maintenance ticket.

- Cats and dogs must never be allowed to run freely on the University campus, and must always be leashed (or transported in a carrying kennel) when in transit outside of their designated room assignment. Pet Owners must utilize the shortest direct path when taking an animal outside of the building. Pet leashes of 6 feet or less are required for all animals while outside. Additionally, public spaces such as building lobbies, laundry rooms, and outdoor recreation areas are off-limits for cats and dogs.
- Pet Owner negligence or mistreatment of a pet will not be tolerated.
- In the event that an animal causes harm to an individual, the Department of Residence Life may require an animal to be removed from campus immediately, pending a review to determine a formal solution. It is the responsibility of the Pet Owner to make immediate alternative arrangements for the animal (such as temporarily in a kennel) at the Pet Owner's cost. All liability for the actions of any animal (bites, scratches, etc.) remains the responsibility of the Pet Owner. Violations concerning any of the policies may result in the Pet Owner being in breach of their housing contract and can result in loss of housing privileges.
- The Pet Owner is responsible for any and all damages and subsequent needed repairs or replacements due to the animal, aside from normal wear and tear. The Pet Owner agrees to report damages as they occur and pay for those damages as they accumulate. Damage charges will be assessed by the Residence Life Maintenance team to include damage repair, cleaning of surfaces and carpet, replacement of flooring, etc.
- The Pet Owner will designate another person as an Emergency Contact. The Emergency Contact must live within a reasonable distance from SHSU and may not be someone who lives on-campus.



Section V. Pet Owner Registration Form

Resident Information

Academic Year: _____ Animal Type: ___ Dog ___ Cat
Resident Name: _____ Sam ID: _____
(Print)
Apartment Assignment: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Email: _____

Animal Registration Information

Animal Name: _____ Animal Species: ___ Dog ___ Cat
Breed: _____ Animal Weight: _____

Table with 4 columns: Item, Date, Included? (Yes/No). Rows include Rabies Vaccination Date, Spayed/Neutered (Sterilization) Date, Optional - Microchip Date, and Recent Photo of Animal Included.

Emergency Plan of Care Contact

In an emergency, If I am unable to care for my animal and I am determined by SHSU University Housing to be unavailable to make decisions regarding animal care due to hospitalization or absence for any other reason, please notify the following:

Emergency Contact: _____
Name Relationship Contact Number

*Emergency contact must live within a reasonable driving distance, and may not be someone who lives on-campus.

Student Signature

By completing this form, student acknowledges that they have reviewed and understand they they are comply with the University Pet Policy. This form must be submitted and approved by SHSU Residence Life prior to animal occupying the assigned space. Failure to submit this form may result in SHSU disciplinary sanctions, fines, and potentially the loss of on-campus housing privileges for the pet.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____