

What if my landlord refuses to allow my pet?

If the landlord refuses to grant permission you can contact the Fair Housing Enforcement Project at 1-888-671-3247 and ask for legal assistance with your case.

You should **not** be asked to turn over your medical records to your landlord, provided your doctor has already supplied you with a letter.

The landlord cannot charge you an extra security deposit or extra rent because of your cat or dog. The landlord may require that your pet be licensed, and that you take good care of the animal including cleaning up after its waste.



FAIR HOUSING
Enforcement Project

WE INVESTIGATE, EVALUATE
AND LITIGATE

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FAIR HOUSING
Enforcement Project

*Right to Emotional
Support and
Service Animals in
Rental Housing*



My landlord does not allow pets. How can I keep my support animal?

While it is legal for private landlords to have a “no pet” policy in rental housing, all landlords must waive the “no pet” policy in certain situations involving people with disabilities who have animals for reasons related to their disabilities, such as:

- A blind person who uses a seeing eye dog;
- A deaf person who uses a “hearing” dog to alert them to noises such as the doorbell or a fire alarm;
- A person who uses a wheelchair who uses a dog to help them with tasks such as opening doors and retrieving objects;

- A person who has an anxiety disorder, depression, post traumatic stress disorder, or any other psychiatric condition who uses a dog or cat for emotional support and to relieve the symptoms of the disability.

This list is only meant to offer common examples. It is not exhaustive of the uses that people with disabilities have for support pets.

How can the Federal Fair Housing Act help me?

- The Federal Fair Housing Act provides protections for people with disabilities.
- The Fair Housing Act requires housing providers to make reasonable accommodations in rules and policies for people with disabilities if such an accommodation is needed to allow the person to live in and enjoy their housing.

- Under the Fair Housing Act, a person with a disability-related dog or cat can ask for a waiver of a “no pets” rule as a reasonable accommodation pursuant to the Fair Housing Act.

What proof do I need to show my pet is necessary?

If you are a person with a disability, with a disability-related pet, and you want to live in housing that has a “no pets” policy you should ask your doctor or health care provider to write a letter stating the nature of your disability and explaining how the dog or cat will relieve the symptoms of your disability.

Take a copy of the letter to the landlord and ask for permission to have the disability-related pet.

