

# Emotional Support Animal Policy

## Fact Sheet

Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (SHC) is committed to providing an accessible environment for tenants with disabilities. Under *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* (the Code), a tenant with a disability may be entitled to have an emotional support animal as a reasonable accommodation.

## Eligibility

Tenants (or future tenants) with a disability can apply for an emotional support animal accommodation, even if the housing authority has a no-pet policy.

You are not required to provide details about your disability.

Eligible animals include:

- a cat
- a dog
- a bird
- fish

Other species or multiple animals will require approval from SHC. Animals must be allowed by your local municipality.

## Application

To apply, submit these forms to your housing authority:

- Emotional Support Animal Application
- Emotional Support Animal Emergency Caregiver Contact Form
- Medical Verification for an Emotional Support Animal Accommodation, completed by a qualified mental health professional (such as a psychiatrist or psychologist), or a family physician, or a nurse practitioner.

Your housing authority will ask for proof of up-to-date vaccinations, spay/neuter records, and registration with the local municipality.

## Review

The housing authority reviews requests on a case-by-case basis and will let you know, in writing, if your application is approved or denied.

You must wait until your accommodation is approved before your animal can live in your unit. Do not adopt a new pet until you have received approval.

## Approved Applications

If your request for an emotional support animal is approved, you will need to sign an addendum to your lease. The addendum outlines the rules you must follow to keep an emotional support animal, including:

- You are responsible for all costs related to your animal including healthcare costs and any property damage to the building or your unit.
- Your animal must be registered/licensed, if required by the municipality.
- Your animal must be housebroken (if relevant).
- Your animal must be well cared for at all times. For example, it must not be left alone overnight.
- Your animal must not interfere with others' right to quiet enjoyment. For example, it cannot be left to bark or meow continuously.
- If you live in a multi-unit building, your animal is not allowed in common areas and you will need to keep your animal on a leash or in a carrier when you take it in or out of the building.
- You must immediately clean up and dispose of your animal's waste according to local bylaws and your housing authority's direction.

Failure to comply with the lease could result in your animal being removed or your eviction.

You may want to consider purchasing liability insurance in case there is an incident involving your emotional support animal.

## Denied Applications

If your request for an emotional support animal is denied, you can contact your housing authority to appeal the decision.

## Contact

If you have any questions, please contact your local housing authority.

