

Wittenberg Pet-Friendly Housing Policy Pilot (Tiger Pals)

Purpose

Wittenberg Residence Life offers 4 Themed Living Communities (Tiger Pride, Honors, Ubuntu Life, and Tiger Pals). Themed living communities offer the opportunity for students to live together in a Residential Space, based on common interests, goals, and lifestyles. Not all students may have pets while living in the Tiger Pals community as there are restrictions on type and quantity of animal per room, but all members of the community must agree to living in a community where animals are present. Residents living in the Tiger Pals community understand that animals range from rodents to cats and dogs and Residence Life cannot guarantee placement with specific animals. The Tiger Pals community is meant to celebrate animals and the companionship each animal provides.

Policy

The following guidelines and policies are strictly for those approved to live in our pet-friendly community. Students outside of this community must abide by [Wittenberg's Pet Policy](#) where animals are prohibited unless medically necessary. Wittenberg University only allows one pet per room with the exception of two small, caged companion animals. Please see approved list below.

Approved Pets

Pets that qualify to live in the Pet-Friendly Community include:

- Fish and hermit crabs (permitted in all halls – no larger than a 10-gallon sized tank)
- Up to two small, caged animals (rabbits, hamsters, gerbils, chinchillas, guinea pigs, rats, mice, and hedgehogs.
- Cats
- Dogs (restrictions apply)

Pets that do not qualify to live in the Pet-Friendly Community Include:

- Amphibians
- Reptiles
- Birds
- Dogs that do not meet the weight and breed restrictions
- Exotic Animals – Including Ferrets, Sugar Gliders, Racoons, etc.

Dogs and must be at least ten months old and have lived with the student or student's family for at least six months by August 1. Cats must be at least 6 months old and must have lived with the family for 3 months. Small, caged animals must have lived with the student or student's family for at least 3 months by August 1. The animal's age and ownership length must be confirmed with purchase and veterinary records provided by the student in the request.

Canine Weight and Breed Restrictions

Dogs may not exceed seventy-five pounds in weight when fully grown. Pit bulls, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, Rottweilers, Chows, Dobermans, Akitas, and wolf breeds/hybrids, or any mix containing these, or any dog that displays aggressive behavior are not considered an acceptable animal and are not allowed on campus at any time. Wittenberg University, at its sole discretion, except as required by law, retains the right to deny any pet or dog breed to reside on campus to ensure the safety of the community.

Students with dogs that can be over 50 lbs, must agree to one of the following living arrangements.

- a. Students are highly encouraged to live in a single or double as a single.
- b. If a student would prefer to live in a double with a roommate, they must arrange the room in a way that provides adequate space for the dog to roam without causing significant interference to the other student in the space. This can be done by bunking beds or lofting at least one bed. The Director of Residence Life would also meet the roommate to ensure there are no concerns from their end.

How to Apply to Bring a Pet From Home

All students must apply annually in their housing portal and agree to the terms of living in the Tiger Pals community, meet with the Director of Residence Life, and provide all necessary documentation at least 7 business days before arrival of the pet to campus. This application does not guarantee approval for the animal to live on campus with the student. There is limited space and each request will be considered on a case-by-case, first-come first-served basis. Any request after the semester has begun will be considered if and when space becomes available. If an animal is found on campus before receiving official approval, the resident must remove the animal within 24 hours. The animal may not be brought back to campus until the resident receives official approval for the animal to return and a \$200 non-appealable fine will be imposed. Animal-Friendly Housing, like all requested housing assignments, is not guaranteed.

Once a student is approved, a \$250 pet fee will be charged to their student account each semester. Upon inspection or check out, the condition of room and furniture is evaluated and additional fees may be assessed if damage is caused by pet.

Students who wish to live in the Tiger Pals community but do not plan on bringing a pet must indicate interest through the Housing Application. Students understand they will be living with another student who has a pet and the Office of Residence Life cannot guarantee the specific type of animal students will be placed with.

Pets on Campus Policies

- The owner, and other individuals in contact with the animal, must not have a history of abuse or irresponsible behavior related to the pet or other animals that negatively impacts the owner's ability to ensure the safety of the approved animal or the Wittenberg community.
- In accordance with local ordinances and regulations, the pet must receive all required and/or recommended immunizations. Additionally, we request that dogs must wear a rabies

vaccination tag, a license tag, and a tag that identifies the owner contact information in case of emergency. If immunizations expire, the owner must obtain new immunizations and provide documentation to Residence Life at housing@wittenberg.edu.

- The pet is only permitted in the approved student's residence, not other University and/or public spaces or buildings. If the owner leaves campus overnight, they must take their pet with them. Students may not provide other students with access to their residence to care for the approved animal.
- Pets must always be under the control of the owner. Animals must be harnessed and leashed while outside the owner's residence. While inside of the residence, animals should be contained in an appropriately sized cage or crate when the owner has left the residence.
- The owner is responsible for caring for and supervising the pet, which includes toileting, feeding, grooming, and veterinary care. The owner may not charge other individuals with responsibility or care of the pet. It is the owner's responsibility to remove and properly dispose of any waste. Waste should be placed in a sturdy plastic bag and disposed of outside of the residence in an appropriate trash receptacle. The behavior, noise, odor, and waste must not exceed reasonable standards or cause an unreasonable disruption for residents and Residential Life staff.
- Pets should be in good health and seen regularly by a licensed veterinarian. The University may ask about the animal's health upon receiving reports of concern. The University has the authority to request the pet receive veterinary attention in appropriate circumstances.
- Residence Life Staff will conduct at least one animal inspection of residential rooms each semester to ensure that the animal owner is maintaining healthy and appropriate animal care. Failure to maintain the upkeep of an animal or living space may result in the removal of animals from campus and/or the assessment of room cleaning charges.
- Residence Life, Facilities Management, and Wittenberg Police are permitted to conduct animal welfare checks if there is a reasonable concern or report made for the health and safety of the pet
- Owners should take measures for flea and odor control. If fleas, ticks, or other animal-specific pests are detected through inspection, the student's housing will be treated using approved fumigation methods by a University approved pest control service. The owner will be billed for the expense of any pest treatment beyond normal required pest management if such treatment is required due to the animal.
- The owner will be held responsible for any room damage resulting from the animal including the excessive cleaning or replacement of the carpet, furniture, windows, wall coverings, etc
- Animals may not be groomed on campus. If a student is found using Wittenberg facilities to bathe their animals, the owner will be billed for damages and may lose their pet privileges.

- The owner is responsible for assuring that the approved animal does not unduly interfere with or adversely affect the routine of the University or other students. In addition, the approved animal must not pose a threat to the health, safety, or property of anyone in the Wittenberg University community. The student is financially and legally responsible for any bodily injuries from the pet
- Sometimes, the University may use pesticides, pest control devices, de-icing materials, cleaning supplies, and other materials for the maintenance and operation of the University. Owners are expected to be vigilant and attentive in taking precautions for their pet; Wittenberg University is not responsible for any harm to the pet caused by such materials
- The owner must notify Residence Life in writing if the pet is not in residence. If resident would like to change their approved animal, the owner must resubmit an application and meet with the Director of Residence Life
- In accordance with the Wittenberg University Housing contract, Residence Life may relocate the student and approved animal as necessary. If a student is relocated out of the Tiger Pals community, the pet will no longer be approved to remain on campus.