EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS ("ESA") AND YOUR RIGHTS

- ESAs are **not** pets. Pet rent, pet deposits, and breed restrictions do not apply.
- Legally, an ESA does not need to be "registered" businesses that claim to register ESAs are often charging for an unnecessary service.
- Service animals are trained to perform a specific task. ESAs provide emotional or mental support or comfort to a person with a disability. Both types of assistance animals are protected under fair housing laws.

Can my landlord restrict what type of animal I can have?

While unique animals are not necessarily excluded, your landlord may request additional information about why a disability requires an animal that is not commonly kept in households (e.g. dog, cat, bird, rabbit).

☆ What can I do if my landlord asks me to remove my animal?

If you need the animal due to a disability, you may submit a reasonable accommodation request. A <u>reasonable accommodation</u> is a request for an exception to a rule or policy where necessary to allow a person with a disability the equal use and enjoyment of their home, such as an exception to a no pets policy or breed restriction. Although it is best to do it before you bring the animal home, you can ask for a reasonable accommodation at any time, including after you receive a notice asking you to remove the animal. Medical verification may be required.

What can I do if my landlord retaliates or terminates my tenancy?

Retaliation is illegal and landlords generally cannot evict you without a proper notice and court procedure. You have rights and should seek legal advice.

CONTACT US AT 1-844-449-3500 OR WWW.LASSD.ORG/CONTACT-US/



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