

Unitarian Universalist Community of Charlotte

Pet Policy

Adopted: January 2024

General Policy

Unitarian Universalism is an inclusive faith, and the presence of pets excludes the interests of those who have allergies, fears, or phobias surrounding animals. There are also legal and safety considerations for limiting pets. This Community, including the facilities, is designed for people. Therefore, with the exception of service animals, no pets are allowed in the property at 234 North Sharon Amity Rd., Charlotte, North Carolina 28211.

Service Animals

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a service animal as any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not considered service animals.

The UUCC (Unitarian Universalist Community of Charlotte) may ask an individual with a disability to remove a service animal if the animal is not housebroken or is out of control and the individual is not able to control it. A service animal must have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless the handler is unable to use a tether because of a disability or the use of a tether would interfere with the service animal's ability to safely perform its work or tasks. In these cases, the service animal must be under the handler's control through voice commands, hand signals, or other effective means.

Emotional Support Animals

Emotional Support Animals (ESA) are companion animals who help their owners cope with the challenges associated with emotional and mental health conditions (such as depression and anxiety) by providing comfort with their presence. Unlike service animals, emotional support animals are not expected to perform specific tasks related to their owner's condition, nor must they adhere to any behavior standards or training.

ESAs are not allowed without prior approval. ESA approvals are given on a case-by-case basis. With this in mind, persons who wish to attend services and events at the UUCC with their ESAs are considered a unique situation and may be considered as an exception to the service animal policy. If you are the owner of an ESA or the caretaker of an owner of an ESA, you may call (704) 366-8623 or email uucc@uuccharlotte.org to request an in-person appointment to discuss an exception to the service animal policy. Your animal must be certified as an ESA (documentation must be provided.)

If your ESA is approved, they are required to adhere to the same rules and guidelines as service animals (see support animal guidelines listed above.)

Portions of this policy includes information gathered from the following sources:

<https://www.ada.gov/>

<https://adata.org/>

<https://disabilityrightsnc.org/>

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/>

<https://www.mqtuu.org/policy/service-animals-policy.html>