

Why This Guide Matters

When you live with an Emotional Support Animal, knowing your rights isn't just helpful — it's essential.

From misinformed landlords to confusing legal jargon, you may be left wondering:

- “Can my ESA really live with me in a no-pet apartment?”
- “What if my landlord says no?”
- “Do I have to pay pet rent or deposits?”

This guide answers those questions — and more — so you can confidently advocate for yourself and your emotional support animal.

What Are My ESA Housing Rights?

Under the **Fair Housing Act (FHA)**, you have the right to live with your ESA — even in buildings with “no pets” policies.

Here's what you're entitled to if you qualify for an ESA:

You Have the Right To:	Explanation
Live with your ESA in most types of housing	Includes apartments, condos, townhomes, and rental houses
Not be charged pet fees or deposits	Your ESA is not a pet under the law — it's a medical accommodation
Be protected from housing discrimination	Your mental health needs are protected under the FHA
Provide documentation from a licensed provider	That's your ESA Letter — and we provide exactly what's needed

The Only ESA Documentation You Need

To be legally protected, your ESA letter **must:**

- Be written and signed by a licensed mental health professional
- Include your provider's license number, contact info, and date
- State that you have a mental or emotional disability
- Confirm that your ESA provides therapeutic benefit

*Important: There is no such thing as ESA
"registration" or a required national database.*

Your ESA letter is the only legally valid document.

What Landlords Can and Can't Do

Landlords CAN:	Landlords CANNOT:
Request your ESA letter from a licensed provider	Ask for your medical records or diagnosis
Deny an ESA that poses a safety risk or causes property damage	Deny your ESA due to breed, size, or weight
Expect your ESA to follow local rules (e.g., leash laws)	Charge pet fees, pet rent, or deposits
Require a reasonable accommodation process	Demand ESA "registration" or certification