



Off Campus Housing Referrals

University of Massachusetts Amherst | 235 Whitmore Administration Building | 413-577-2187 | www.housing.umass.edu

Pet Owner Information

Things to Note

- Most area landlords prohibit pets and strictly enforce lease regulations prohibiting them.
- Most apartment complexes and condominium associations prohibit dogs and many prohibit cats, aquariums, and boa constrictors.
- Amherst and all surrounding towns have strict leash laws for dogs.
- Because of these existing restrictions, the type of housing stock most readily available to you is single-family homes and apartments in older homes. You can maximize your housing options by trying the following procedures:

Pet References

Many landlords will be impressed if you can present them with a letter(s) from either a former landlord or a neighbor who can attest to the model behavior of your pets and your sterling qualities as an owner.

Maintenance Schedule

Be able to demonstrate to prospective landlords that you can care for your pet from early morning through the night (without it being a nuisance to the neighbors). For example, if your pet is a dog, your schedule should include walking/leash times and the times the dog will be outside.

Animal Medical Records

Make sure your animal is properly licensed and vaccinated. The state of Massachusetts requires all dogs to be licensed and vaccinated against rabies.

Massachusetts also requires cats 90 days and older to be vaccinated for rabies. Also, be ready to provide documentation that your pet has been spayed or neutered. If your pet has not been spayed or neutered, several local veterinarians offer low rates for these procedures. Call the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898.