

FAIRMONT VILLA MANAGEMENT NO PET POLICY

As per the BC Government Guide Dog and Service Dog Certification program, only government certified Guide and Service dogs are permitted on the property. There is no provincial recognition for Emotional Support Animals (ESA), including dogs, in British Columbia. Nor are Emotional Support Dogs eligible to be registered, or certified, as a Service Dog. Guide and Service dogs (and their handlers) are specially trained and certified as a guide for a blind person, or as a service dog that perform specific tasks to assist a person with a disability. Both the guide dog and service dog are certified by the BC Government.

Unlike service animals, an ESA does not require any specific training. While provinces vary on the regulations of ESAs, there is no law in Canada that requires an individual to register their ESA, or obtain certification for an ESA. The BC Guide Dog and Service Dog Certificate states under “Other Support Animals”, that: “Therapy and emotional support animals, including dogs, are not eligible for certification.”

An Emotional Support Animal is defined as a person’s pet that can support them emotionally, wherever they go. An emotional support dog, or comfort dog, as well as therapy dogs, are not considered service dogs under the BC Government Guide Dog and Service Dog Certification program. Emotional support dogs provide comfort and companionship to the dog owner, but are not specifically trained for their emotional supportive roles. Nor are they trained to do specific tasks that assist a disability. Also, there are no laws or regulations around whether these animals are screened for their safety in the public and no formal training to do so is required.

A therapy dog is a dog and their owner/handler who are evaluated and tested through a Therapy Dog Organization. A therapy dog is brought by the owner/handler to visit people in institutions, or in their homes, providing others with an opportunity to interact with a dog.

If your emotional support dog is allowed on the property, a letter is required from your therapist that you (accompanied by your dog) are seeing; and who lives in, or near, the same place you live. The letter is to include the following:

- (a) Confirm that you have a mental health DSM 5 diagnosis.
- (b) Explain how the animal helps alleviate that condition.
- (c) Describe their observations of how you and your dog interact, and how long they have observed this interaction, including the dog’s temperament or behaviour.
- (d) Explain the possible negative effects of the person’s not having the animal with you.
- (e) Mentions any training the animal has received from a qualified trainer, if applicable.

Your therapist’s letter is to be sent by e-mail to Kathy Grieve, General Manager, to: generalmgr@msvillas.com three weeks prior to your arrival for her review.

Failure to notify the resort of any accompanying dog in your villa will result in an immediate surcharge of \$300.00 per day. Alternate accommodation for your dog will be necessary. We will provide the names of kennels in the valley. Failure to comply will result in the cancellation of your reservation.