



Edwards House

Meetings & Retreats

Policy on Accommodation of Animals

Consistent with our understanding of the Gospels, the United Church of Christ seeks to welcome all people to our churches and facilities. In order to welcome all people, we have found it necessary to develop the following policy concerning accommodation of animals.

Because many of our guests have allergies to animal dander, we are unable to accommodate pet dogs at Edwards House.

Edwards House Meeting and Retreat Center, as a religious entity, is not legally required to allow any animals on the premises. However, we do welcome guests who travel with their service animals as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act – that is, animals individually trained to perform tasks for persons with disabilities including visual, hearing or mobility impairments. We expect such service animals to remain leashed and under their owner's control at all times.

In addition, we allow on the premises therapy and ministry dogs who are trained and certified through an organization such as NEADS or Pets and People, provided they remain leashed and under their owner's control.

While most ministry and therapy dogs are very well-trained, it has occasionally been the case that such a dog has been brought to Edwards House who has not been well-trained, and has behaved in ways disruptive or disturbing to human guests. If a ministry or therapy dog behaves in such a way as to disturb or offend a guest, that dog's owner will be asked to remove the dog from the premises immediately, and the dog will not be allowed to return.

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.