

# Emotional Support Animals

## Policy:

Emotional Support Animals may be allowed in campus housing if certain conditions are met. The animals must be a necessity for the student with a disability to afford the student an equal opportunity. There must be an identifiable relationship between the student's disability and the assistance the animal provides. An accommodation is unreasonable if it presents an undue financial or administrative burden on the College, poses a direct threat to the life, health, safety or welfare of the college community. Unlike a Service Animal, an Emotional Support Animal might not be trained and it does not accompany a person with a disability at all times. Although Emotional Support Animals may be considered for limited access to college housing, they are not permitted in other areas of the college (e.g. libraries, academic buildings, classrooms, labs, etc.).

## Procedure:

1. An Emotional Support Animal is one that is necessary to afford the person with a disability an equal opportunity. It may provide physical assistance, emotional support, calming, stability and other kinds of assistance. Animals do not perform work or tasks that would qualify them as "service animals" under the ADA. Assistance animals that are not service animals under the ADA may still be permitted, in certain circumstances, in campus housing pursuant to the Fair Housing Act.
2. Requests for support animals should be made by:
  - a. Submitting medical/reasonable documentation from a licensed medical professional to the Director of Student Housing.
  - b. All requests will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
3. It is recommended that the animal wear some type of commonly recognized identification symbol, identifying the animal as a working animal, but not disclosing disability.
4. It is the handlers responsibility to:
  - a. Attend to the well-being and cleanliness of the animal.
  - b. Keep animal under control at all times.
  - c. Be responsible for removal of animal waste and maintain clean conditions. In the event that the handler is not physically able to clean up after the animal, it is then the responsibility of the handler to hire someone capable of cleaning up after the animal.
  - d. Maintain up-to-date licensing (if applicable) and verification of a clean health certificate and vaccinations.
5. Emotional Support Animals may be ordered to be removed for the College for the following reasons:
  - a. A handler may be directed to remove an animal that is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control the animal.
  - b. A handler may also be directed to remove an animal that is not housebroken.

- c. A handler may be directed to remove an animal that the College determines to be a direct threat to the life, health, safety or welfare of the College community (ill animal, substantial lack of cleanliness of the animal, etc.).
6. The handler is responsible for any preventable damage to persons or College property caused by the animal.
7. Should any emergency arise, the handler is responsible for the well-being and/or alternate shelter of the animal.
8. Students living in campus housing must also complete the Emotional Support Animal Request Form, Emotional Support Animal Professional Questionnaire, and Emotional Support Animal Agreement/Consent to Share Residence Form provided on the college website.
9. If a situation arises where an individual has an allergic reaction to animals that is substantial enough to qualify as a disability, the College will consider the needs of both persons in meeting its obligations to reasonably accommodate all disabilities and to resolve the problem as efficiently and expeditiously as possible. Students, faculty or staff requesting allergy accommodations should contact Disability Support Services and the Student Housing Office.
10. No emotional support animals are allowed in the residence halls unless all documentation listed above has been completed and approved by the Director of Student Housing.
11. The handler is responsible for meeting all room check requirements in regard to keeping the assigned room clean at all times, if an Emotional Support Animal has been approved to be in the room. If the room does not meet expectations in regard to cleanliness of the animal or has any damages resulting from the animal living in the room, the handler can be ordered to remove that animal. If the animal creates a disruptive or unsafe environment in the residence hall (barking, attempting to bite another student, found in any other part of the dorm other than room, etc.), the animal can be removed.