



Service and Assistance Animal Procedures

SERVICE ANIMALS:

Service Animals are regulated under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) because they are considered an accommodation needed by a person with a disability to perform specific tasks needed to mitigate the effects of their disability. The regulations state the following:

1. A service animal is defined as a dog (and in some very limited cases a miniature horse)
2. Trained to perform a specific task that the person with a disability cannot otherwise perform themselves

No other animals are considered service animals. Only dogs. The service animal is considered an extension of the person and therefore must be compliant with the same public rules and regulations that the disabled person must comply with. Service animals are under the same Student Code of Conduct as the students. Additionally, service animals must be tethered at all times (unless the leash interferes with the task the animal performs) and meet all local health requirements, including vaccinations.

ASSISTANCE OR EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS:

Assistance or Emotional Support Animals (ESA's) are covered under the Fair Housing Act because they may be required for a variety of mental health issues. They are not trained to do a certain task, but are generally used to help with emotional stability and stress reduction. If ESA's are needed due to a disability, the person may be allowed to keep the animal in their primary residence. However, Assistance and ESA's are not allowed into buildings that are accessible to the general public as is the case with Service Animals. This includes all academic buildings on campus.

Assistance and ESA's can be a variety of animals and are not limited to dogs. They are, however, limited to the city and county restrictions of domestic animals that are allowed within an incorporated entity. Exotic or wild animals

not allowed as pets inside a city limit also cannot be classified as an assistance animal.

So in summary, Service Animals (only a dog) are permitted in any campus building that the general public has access to. Assistance or Emotional Support Animals (various animals) are only allowed in the room within a residence hall of the student and no other buildings on campus.

All Service and Assistance Animal requests must be submitted to Disability Support Services (DSS) office located in Clark Student Center, Room 168. After DSS has approved the accommodation of a Service or Assistance Animal, the student is responsible for submitting the approval to University Student Housing along with any other required documentation.

No animal will be permitted in residence halls or apartments that:

- Is not approved by the DSS office
- Is not approved by University Housing
- Poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others
- Would cause a substantial physical damage to the property of the University and other residents
- Would pose an undue financial and administrative burden to the University
- Would fundamentally alter the nature of the University's housing operations

To register a service or assistance/emotional support animal, please contact or come by:

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES
CLARK STUDENT CENTER, ROOM 168
940-397-4140