

Center for Accessibility Services

Emotional Support Animals

ESA accommodations are approved on a case by case basis. In order for CAS to process requests timely, completed ESA application packets need to be submitted to the Center for Accessibility by the Emotional Support Animal application deadline of July 15 for fall semester and December 15 for spring semester. Animals should not be brought to campus prior to approval being granted. At this time no animals will reside in student housing for summer sessions and wintermesters.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to renew my ESA accommodation annually?

Yes, just as academic accommodations are reviewed for appropriateness each year, a student should be able to provide information discussing the continued or discontinued need for an ESA. If the animal is returned to campus without proper renewal, the animal may be removed from campus until approval is complete.

What happens if the approved ESA is no longer needed or is no longer residing on University property?

The owner must notify the Center for Accessibility and the Office of Residential Life and Housing if there has been a change in the status of the animal. If it will be replaced, the owner must submit a new request.

What happens if I harbor an animal that has not been approved as an ESA?

The animal will be removed and the student may forfeit future ESA accommodations. In addition, conduct charges may also be issued.

What about roommates and notifying them of an ESA?

It is the responsibility of the student requesting an ESA to inform their roommates of the entering ESA. If a roommate is not comfortable with an ESA, the student requesting the ESA will be responsible for finding roommates that are comfortable with their ESA within their apartment or suite. It is not the roommate's responsibility to care for the emotional support animal.

Can an ESA be removed due to owner and/or the ESA's behavior and action not abiding to guidelines established in the ESA Housing Agreement?

Yes, if an ESA is disruptive to the atmosphere and enjoyment of others this violates residence life policy. All residents are to conduct themselves as to not disrupt an environment that is conducive to studying, and sleeping.

Denials of Requests for Emotional Support Animals.

The university is not required to provide accommodations that would pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others. Thus, if a particular animal requested by a student with a disability has a history of dangerous behavior or unsafe disposition, the university will deny the request for an emotional support animal.

The university will also deny requests that would:

1. Result in substantial physical damage to the property of others unless the threat of damage can be eliminated or significantly reduced by a reasonable accommodation.
2. Pose an undue financial and administrative burden on the university.
3. Fundamentally alter the nature of the university's operations. If your request for an ESA is denied, please contact the Center for Accessibility for further clarification of the decision.