



Guidelines for Service Animals & Emotional Support Animals

	Service Animal	Emotional Support Animal (ESA)
Definition	<p>Any dog or miniature horse that has been trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability</p> <p>Any breed of dog</p> <p>The work or tasks must be directly related to the handler's disability</p> <p>Does not require "formal" training, but trained to perform a specific task</p>	<p>Provides companionship, relieves loneliness and sometimes helps with depression, anxiety and certain phobias</p> <p>Sometimes called therapy, comfort or companion animals</p> <p>Almost any breed of animal except for reptiles or monkeys</p> <p>Sole role may be its presence</p> <p>Must be trained enough to be controllable but it need not be trained to perform a specific task</p>
Laws	<p>Title II of ADA</p> <p>Section 35.104 (definition)</p> <p>Section 35.136 (requirements)</p> <p>Section 504; 34 C.F.R. 104.44 (academic adjustments)</p>	<p>Section 504</p> <p>*ESA is not just a form of housing accommodation</p>
Verification	<p>Verification of disability is not required by DSPS</p>	<p>Verification of disability is required by DSPS</p> <p>Requires supporting documents that the ESA will ameliorate identified symptoms of an individual's (emotional or psychological) disability</p>



	Service Animal	Emotional Support Animal (ESA)
Determination Process	<p>Look for physical indicators (i.e. harness, carrying implements)</p> <p>Observe the behavior of the animal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paying attention to handler • Civility that comes from training <p>The only permissible verbal assurance questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the animal required because of a disability? • What work or task has the animal been trained to perform? 	<p>Interactive process must include consideration of permitting ESA to be present with the student</p> <p>Review of documentation</p>
Characteristics	<p>Active - recognition and response</p> <p>Trained to perform a task</p> <p>Trained to ground a person with a mental health disorder</p>	<p>Passive – merely sensing the event</p> <p>Untrained to perform a task</p> <p>Presence affects a person’s disability</p>
DSPS or 504/ADA Officer Approval Required	No	Yes
Considered an Accommodation	Yes	Maybe - Admission might not be required or allowed



Universal Rules

- Colleges may report unvaccinated or abused animals to the city/county animal control
- Abandoned animals may be taken to an animal shelter – with notice to the handler and shelter location
- Must be housebroken
- Must be under the control of the handler though not necessarily by leash
- Colleges need not continue to permit a service animal or ESA if it disrupts the classroom or environment
 - unless the disruption is for the purpose of a safety warning for the benefit of the handler
- Allow the animal to accompany the student at all times and in public areas on district property
- Do not attempt to pet the animal
- Do not attempt to feed the animal
- Do not attempt to separate the animal from its handler

Impermissible Inquiries

- Require special ID card/collar etc. for animal
- Ask to have the animal demonstrate the service
- Request any kind of documentation for training or licensing
- Ask the nature of the student's disability

Please refer all questions and determination of an accommodation to DSPS at (949)451-5630