

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL

General Information

DEFINITION: Emotional support animal (or Assistance Animal or Comfort Animal) means an animal selected or prescribed by a healthcare or mental health professional for an individual with a disability. The emotional support animal plays a significant part in a person's treatment process, e.g., in alleviating the symptoms of that individual's disability. An emotional support animal does not assist a person with a disability with activities of daily living, nor does the emotional support animal accompany a person with a disability at all times. An emotional support animal is not a "Service Animal." 28 CFR § 35.104.

Under the Fair Housing Act, students residing in Fayetteville State University's (FSU)s residential living spaces may be permitted to have emotional support animals (ESA) in their residential living spaces as well as in common areas and places of public accommodation in a housing complex, if a request for a reasonable accommodation is made in accordance with the procedures in the section below.

ELIGIBILITY: To be eligible to have an (ESA) at FSU, the student **MUST** provide the following information:

- A completed Student Disability Services registration packet, which must verify the disability.
- Submission of completed Provider Information Form that states:
 - Diagnosis (DSM-5 or ICD-10 codes)
 - Current impact and functional limitations resulting from the disability
 - Rationale for having an ESA to help alleviate symptoms associated with the person's disability
 - Provider's description of the service(s) that the animal will provide.
- A clear photograph of the animal and the cage.
- A veterinarian's assessment of the animal.
- A record of up-to-date vaccinations.
- Must be spayed or neutered. A copy of the veterinarian's report must be on file with SDS.

Student Disability Services (SDS) will review the documentation within the parameters of the Fair Housing Act (FHA). **Generally, documentation from health care professionals who review emotional profiles and create template ESA letters for public housing and air carriers, or who have had no contact with the student except for limited encounters that were specifically intended to produce an ESA letter are not considered reliable.**

If the SDS approves the ESA, SDS staff will arrange a meeting between a FSU housing representative and the student requesting to have the ESA in university housing.

For more information about applying to have an ESA on campus, please contact the Counseling and Personal Development Center at 910-672-1222 or you may email your inquiries to disabilityservices@uncfsu.edu.