

Animals as Accommodations in Higher Education

disABILITY Services Center, A Center for Learning and Accessibility Services
University of California Irvine

Fur your Information



In 2012 69.9% of American households owned either a dog or a cat.¹

88% of pet owners consider their pet a member of the family²

Service & emotional support animals are not pets.

Research finds that interaction with an animal can reduce blood pressure, lower cholesterol, provide a calming effect to benefit people with or without mental illness³

Psychologists, Residence Life and Disability Service Staff should prepare for students requesting to bring animals to campus.

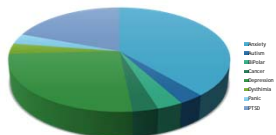
UC Irvine Students with Animal Accommodations

Campus Population	
Graduate	5,983
Undergraduate	23,605

Service Animals	
	4
Emotional Support Animals	
Graduate (or spouse)	31
Undergraduate	25

% Of campus population with animals 0.0011829%

Diagnoses utilizing ESAs



48% of Students with ESAs have Comorbid Diagnoses

Federal Laws Identify & Protect Service and Emotional Support Animals

SERVICE ANIMALS

Perform work for handler

Americans with Disabilities Act, 1990
Individually Trained
Service animals are not considered 'pets'
Allowed in any public area with handler
Well-controlled, housebroken, clean, quiet, leashed

Dog or miniature horse

If disability is not apparent: 2 questions
1) Is your animal required because of a disability?
2) What work/tasks does your animal perform?



Provide comfort, security and emotional support

Fair Housing Act
Training not required
Nexus between the disability and the animal
Limited to housing
Well-controlled, housebroken, clean, quiet, leashed
Valuable to people with psychological limitations

Emotional Support Animals (ESA's) are not Service Dogs and **may be any animal**
May require Documentation
May not cause a fundamental alteration or undue financial/administrative burden
Animal may not alter the environment for others



EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS

Campus Challenges

Allergic reactions
Fear of dogs
Disruption of classroom/university Business
Out of Handler's control
Barking/noise/biting
Animal certification or Licensing
Area for Animals to relieve themselves
Veterinary care/shots
Animal abuse or neglect
Websites selling leashes, vests and certificates

Housing Challenges

Adequate living space
Deposits
Children
Animal Relief and Exercise
Roommates
Maintenance of unit
Fire/Emergencies

Solutions

- 1) Provide guidance on service & ESA's
- 2) Train campus community to use the 2 allowable questions
- 3) Develop a Campus Policy/Process for requesting ESA's that contains a reasonable turn-around time
- 4) Follow established student conduct procedures to handle animal complaints
- 5) Handle requests for ESA's individually-listen for nexus

References

Americans with Disabilities Act, as Amended 2008
Rehabilitation Act of 1973
Federal Housing Authority
Office of Civil Rights & Department of Justice

¹American Veterinary Medical Association, Market Research Statistics-U.S. Pet Ownership (last visited August 28, 2014), available at <http://www.avma.org/Assets/AboutAVMA/Statistics/Pages/MarketResearchStatistics.aspx?Page=2012>

²Harris Interactive, Pets Are "Members of our Family" (last visited August 24, 2014), available at http://www.harrisinteractive.com/press_releases.asp?ID=2485

³March, 2001 Volume LXXV, No. (last visited September 2, 2014) <http://www.furcare.com/vol75/issue011/esas.html>



Further Information

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