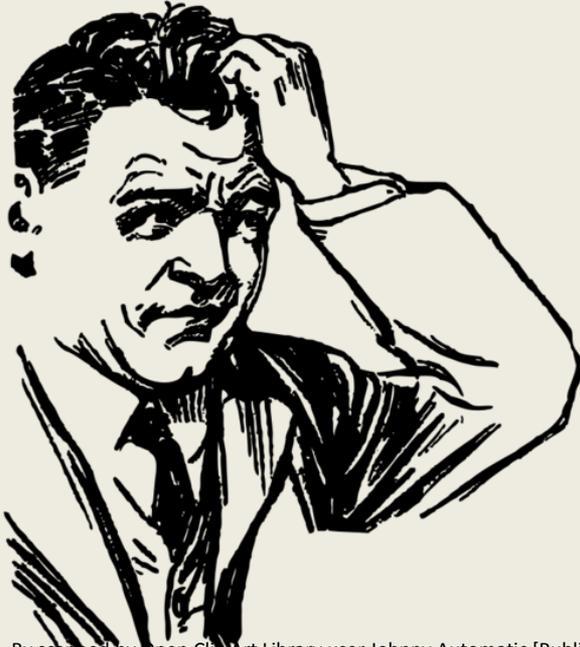


# Disability Issues: Animals on Campus 2018



# Terminology



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The term “assistance animal” has been used to describe both [service animals](#) and [emotional support animals](#).

But it shouldn't be...the two groups are, well, different animals.

Both **Service Animals** and **Emotional Support Animals** provide necessary support to individuals with disabilities. However the animals' roles and the applicable laws are quite different.

**Service Animals** are protected by the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) and are regulated by the Department of Justice.

**Emotional Support Animals** are protected by the [Fair Housing Act](#) and are regulated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

# Definitions

A **Service Animal** is “*a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability.*” For example, a dog may be trained

to retrieve objects for a person with limited mobility or to lead an individual to a safe place when they exhibit specific symptoms.



An **Emotional Support Animal (ESA)** is an animal “*that is necessary to afford the individual equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling.*”

For example, the presence of an ESA may provide needed support and comfort to a person with severe depression or PTSD.

Many animal species can serve as **Emotional Support Animals.**



# Campus Locations

A **Service Animal** may accompany its handler at all times and everywhere on campus, including dining areas and classrooms.

The only exceptions are areas from which animals are specifically prohibited, such as a hospital's sterile burn unit.



An **Emotional Support Animal**, by definition, is linked with Housing. As a general rule, other than for toileting purposes, an **ESA** must remain in the student's room and be appropriately confined if the student is not present. Failure to comply violates Lincoln's code of conduct and could lead to disciplinary procedures as outlined in the [Student Handbook](#).



# Permission and Notifications

There may not always be official notification of a **Service Animal's** presence on campus. Although residential students must provide advance notice to Housing, individuals with **Service Animals** don't need to request accommodations or necessarily inform the College of the dog's presence. If the need for the **Service Animal** isn't obvious, College personnel may ask only these 2 questions:

1. Is the dog is a **Service Animal** required because of a disability?
2. What disability-related actions has the dog been trained to perform?

*It is not appropriate to ask about the individual's disability or diagnosis.*



Students who need to use an **Emotional Support Animal** in the residence halls must first register with ODS and request that accommodation.

The registration process includes a contract with Residential Life and ODS and also requires appropriate documentation from a qualified mental health professional verifying that the animal is part of an ongoing treatment plan.



# Animal Etiquette

Don't distract the **Service Animal**.

Generally, ignore its presence as much as possible: no petting, whistling, offering food, etc.

Don't ask about the owner's disability or intrude on their privacy; the student's diagnosis is confidential.

Don't ask the student to have the dog "perform."

Do give the dog room to work so that it can perform its tasks uninhibited.

Do speak to the owner rather than the dog.



An **Emotional Support Animal** is not just a "pet." It's there to provide necessary support for a specific student.

While the presence of an animal in College housing may serve to identify an individual as a person with a disability, College personnel can help maintain students' privacy by reminding others that disability status and diagnoses are not appropriate conversation topics.



# Identification and Certification

Although handlers may choose to have their animal wear a vest or kerchief identifying its role, neither **Service Animals** nor **Emotional Support Animals** are required to use vests, collars, or any other identifying accessory.

Neither individuals who use **Service Animals** nor students with **Emotional Support Animals** are required to present training certification for their animals.

There is no “national registry” for either **Service Animals** or **Emotional Support Animals**.



# Owner Responsibilities

Owners of both **Service Animals** and **Emotional Support Animals** must

- Ensure that the animal is immunized, licensed, and in good health.
- Assume responsibility for any damage caused by the animal.
- Keep the animal under control at all times and leashed as appropriate.
- Ensure that the animal is not disruptive (odor, noise, aggression, etc.).
- Clean up after the animal; college facilities may not be used for bathing and grooming.
- Be responsible for the animal's well-being.

Failure to fulfill these responsibilities may lead to the animal's removal from the area or even campus.



# What if's...

If a **Service Dog** disrupts a class or meeting, College personnel may ask the handler to remove the animal. If an **Emotional Support Animal** is disruptive or causes damage, it may be removed from campus.

If the animal damages property or creates a disturbance, College staff should report the incident to whoever normally handles such incidents (e.g., Housing, Security, Student Life).

If individuals have severe animal allergies, they should contact ODS.

If you'd like more information about **Service Animals** and **Emotional Support Animals**, contact ODS.



# ODS Contact Information

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