



## Guidelines for a Service Animal within the AU Residential Community

### I. Definitions

- (A) A Service Animal is an animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. These tasks include but are not limited to: guiding individuals with impaired vision; alerting individuals who are hearing impaired to intruders or sound; providing minimal protection or rescue work; pulling a wheelchair; or fetching dropped items.
- (B) An Emotional Support Animal (ESA) is an animal selected to play an integral part of a person's treatment process. The ESA must demonstrate a good temperament and reliable, predictable behavior. An ESA is **not** a Service Animal. Unlike a service animal, an ESA does not assist a person with a disability with activities of daily living, nor does it accompany a person with a disability at all times. An ESA is incorporated into a treatment process to assist in alleviating the symptoms of that individual's disability. This treatment occurs within the person's residence and therefore may be considered for access to university housing.
- (C) An Animal (as the term is used in these guidelines) refers to a Service Animal
- (D) A pet is an animal kept for ordinary use and companionship. A pet is not considered a service animal or an ESA, and therefore, it is not covered by these guidelines. Pets are not permitted in University residence halls or apartments.
- (E) To be allowed to have either a Service Animal or ESA reside in campus housing, the student must first contact the Director of Accessibility and Academic Support in the Student Success Center and complete the appropriate documentation requirements.

### II. Guidelines and Requirements

- (A) A person may keep an Animal in a university residence hall as a reasonable accommodation if:
  - (1) the person has a disability and has provided appropriate documentation to the Director of Accessibility and Academic Support;
  - (2) the Animal is necessary to afford the person with a disability an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling; and
  - (3) there is an identifiable relationship between the disability and the assistance the Animal provides.
- (B) An Animal must be prescribed to an individual with a disability by a physician or mental health professional.
- (C) Permission for an Animal in residence halls is granted for an approved Animal provided that its behavior, noise, odor and waste do not exceed reasonable standards for a well-behaved animal and that these factors do not create unreasonable disruptions for other residents. If the noise (crying, barking or meowing especially when student is not around) is excessive as judged by Campus Life staff, it may be grounds for the student to lose their accommodation to keep their animal on campus.

**AU** AUGUSTANA  
UNIVERSITY  
Request for Information

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Re: Proposed ESA – Name of Animal: \_\_\_\_\_

The above-named student has indicated that you are the health professional who has suggested having an Emotional Support Animal (ESA) in the residence hall will be helpful in alleviating symptoms of their disability. Currently, Augustana University is accepting for review documentation from:

(Your name & title) \_\_\_\_\_

**Information about the Student's Disability**

*A person with a disability is defined as someone who has "a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities."*

What is the nature of the student's mental health impairment (how is the student substantially limited)?

Does the student require ongoing treatment?

How long have you been working with the student regarding this mental health diagnosis?

**Information about the Proposed ESA**

Is this an animal that you specifically prescribed as part of treatment for the student, or is it a pet that you believe will have a beneficial effect for the student while in residence on campus?

What symptoms will be reduced by having the ESA?

Is there evidence that an ESA has helped this student in the past or currently?



### **Importance of ESA to Student's Well-Being**

In your opinion, how important is it for the student's well-being that the ESA be in residence on campus? What consequences, in terms of disability symptomology, may result if the accommodation is not approved?

Have you discussed the responsibilities associated with properly caring for an animal while engaged in typical college activities and residing in campus housing? Do you believe those responsibilities might exacerbate the student's symptoms in any way? (If you have not had this conversation with the student, we will discuss with the student at a later date.)

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form. If we need additional information, we may contact you again. We recognized that having an ESA in the residence hall can be a real benefit for someone with a significant mental health disorder, but the practical limitations of our housing arrangements make it necessary to carefully consider the impact of the request for an ESA on both the student and the campus community.

Please provide your contact information, sign and date this document below, and return it to Accessibility and Academic Support Services in the Student Support Center at Augustana University.

### **Contact Information:**

Address;

Telephone:

Fax or Email address:

Professional Signature:

License #:

Date: