

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL POLICY



AN EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL IS NOT THE SAME AS A SERVICE ANIMAL.

While a service animal performs tasks directly related to a person's disability, an emotional support animal allows someone with a disability equal opportunity to use and enjoy Averett University housing.



A STUDENT WITH AN ESA HAS TO PROVIDE THE SAME MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION AS OTHER ADA RECIPIENTS

Students who want to have an ESA on campus must go through Erin Schlauch in the Success Center and provide the required documentation.



THIS POLICY ALIGNS WITH HUD AND FAIR HOUSING REGULATIONS

Permitting ESAs to qualifying individuals is federal law for any campus with housing.



ANIMALS ARE NOT ALLOWED OUTSIDE THE STUDENT'S ROOM.

Since ESAs are permitted through HUD/Fair Housing regulations, they will not and should not be present in classes or other parts of campus, other than to use the restroom in designated areas.



JUST AS WITH OTHER STUDENTS RECEIVING ACCOMMODATIONS, THE INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL.

The student receiving the ESA accommodation is not required to specify to any party other than the ADA Specialist the nature of his/her disability, nor can this information be shared with parents, other students, staff or faculty.



EVERY ESA ON CAMPUS HAS AN ANIMAL CARE PLAN.

Each student who has been granted an ESA accommodation had to develop an individualized Animal Care Plan with the Office of Housing and Residence Life so that they are aware of ways to best care for the animal to the comfort of the animal and others on campus.



ANY ANIMAL CAN BE AN ESA (ALMOST...)

Contrary to popular belief, ESAs or service animals, for that matter, can come in many shapes and sizes. Although dogs and cats are the perceived norm, an ESA be a rabbit, a hamster, a turtle, or many other types of animals. However, animals which pose a health and safety risk would not be permissible.



IT IS THE OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP UP WITH THEIR ANIMAL'S CARE AND BEHAVIOR.

Every animal on campus will have a veterinarian's clean bill of health, will be updated on all shots, and will have a history of good behavior. The owner will be responsible for making sure the animal is maintained and is behaving appropriately. Any proposed danger to others will not be tolerated.