

Information About Emotional Support Animals (ESAs) at ESU

ESA

- An animal that provides therapeutic emotional support to an individual's disabilities.
- Is only allowed in student's dorm room
- Is NOT considered an accommodation under ADA

Service Animal

- A dog
- Trained to do work or perform tasks
 - EX: A guide dog for persons with severe visual impairments or are blind
- IS considered an accommodation under ADA

*Info regarding ESAs and Service Animals can be found at:
<https://www.ada.gov/resources/service-animals-2010-requirements>

Benefits of ESA

- Provides emotional support to owner
- Can help with prescribed therapy
- Can help alleviate symptoms from anxiety and depression



SASS

Student Accessibility + Support Services

William Allen White Library 2nd Floor, Room 209K

620-341-6637

sasse@emporia.edu

Student Accessibility + Support Services Emotional Support Animal (ESA) Process

What SASS needs from the student

A letterhead from a licensed professional stating the following:

- Student is under the licensed professional's care
- Student has a diagnosed disability - no specifics needed
- Student can benefit from having an emotional support animal to reduce or alleviate symptoms associated with the diagnosed disability

Note: All the above points must be included for SASS to consider the documentation.

Things to Consider BEFORE Requesting an ESA

- Overall well-being of the animal.
 - Are you involved in activities that will keep you away from your dorm for extended periods of time?
 - Is it in the animal's best interest to live in the dorm?
- Are you able to afford the necessary costs?
 - Pet food, vet visits, etc.
- What is the animal's temperament like?
 - How will your pet react to the dorm, new people, and other ESA's?
- How will the animal react to being in a small space?

Next Steps

- Bring the letter from a licensed professional to SASS (see above)
 - This can be sent through email, faxed, or brought in person
- SASS will reach out to Residential Life to let them know that the appropriate documentation for an ESA has been received.
- Res. Life will reach out to you to complete the next steps in the process
 - You will NOT be allowed to bring your ESA to campus until you have completed the final steps with Res. Life.