Adapted from Therapy vs. Service Animals Ohio Ahead PowerPoint

1. Therapy vs. Service Animals:  
What’s the difference and how does it impact students with psychiatric disabilities?

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Student Life Disability Services

2. Overview

Laws & Regulations

Types of Animals

Campus Access

Documentation

Case Studies

Questions

Resources

3. 2011 ADA Updates

Limits the species of service animals to dogs (with exception of miniature horses in some cultures).

Makes clear that comfort or emotional support animals are not covered

Makes clear that individuals with physical, sensory, psychiatric, or other mental disabilities can use service animals

4. Fair Housing Act

The Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 requires housing providers to make reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities.

Covered housing includes college and University housing, including dormitories, and faculty housing.

5. Types of Animals

Types:

Service Animals

Psychiatric

Therapy Animals

Emotional Support Animals

6. Service Animals

“Service animal means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability… The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability…”

7. Service Animals

Training

Two national organizations

National Service Dog Training Center

Assistance Dogs International

Lots of local and non-profit groups

Can be trained by owner-not as successful

Good citizen certification is all that is officially needed unless the dog will be on federal or military property

8. Service Animals

Services:

Guide-obstacle avoidance, navigate/find on command

Provide stability

Open doors

Pick up/retrieve items

9. Therapy Animal

Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT): “AAT is a goal-directed intervention in which an animal that meets specific criteria is an integral part of the treatment process”

10. Therapy Animals

Animals include, but are not limited to, dogs, cats, horses, donkeys, dolphins, birds, hamsters, rabbits, & fish.

In medical settings owner must be trained/certified

Mostly utilized in hospitals and therapy settings

11. Emotional Support Animals

Emotional support animals are animals that provide some therapeutic benefit for a person with a mental or psychiatric disability or whose mere presence, without any training, reduces the effects of a mental or emotional disability.

1995 - National Service Animal Registry began certifying Emotional Support Animals

12. Emotional Support Animals

Not just dogs – examples: cat, bird, guinea pig, miniature horse, capuchin monkey, etc.

May be trained or untrained

Verification of disability can be provided by a medical or mental health professional.

Additional fee, pet deposit, extra inspections, or special conditions do not apply

13. Psychiatric Services Animals

2005 - Psychiatric Service dog assisted soldier injured in Iraq

Must meet requirements of service animal

Have same rights as a service animal

Can be any size dog

14. Psychiatric Services Animals

Trained tasks include:

Recognizing change in emotional state

Provide direct pressure to calm individual

Lead individual to safe place when in a dissociative state

Wake individual during night terrors

Retrieve medication/items

Animal must perform these tasks without voice prompt

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6WfDX8KPFU

(Start – 5:07)

15. Campus Access

Service Animals (including Psychiatric)

Classrooms

Dining halls

Some lab spaces

Residence halls

16. Campus Access

Emotional support & Therapy Animals

Residence halls

Off campus housing

Airplanes

Hospitals and therapy settings (therapy animals)

17. Documentation

Service Animals:

NOT required to provide documentation

Can ask: “Is this a service animal?” and “What services is this animal trained to perform?”

Emotional Support Animals:

ARE required to provide documentation

Can ask typical disability verification questions

18. Case Studies

Break into 2 groups

Read/discuss scenarios

Answer questions

Pick a spokesperson

7 minutes

19. Questions

What are you experiencing on your campus?

What are your guidelines for service/support animals?

Questions for us?

20. Resources

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21. Thanks

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