

Slide 1:

Title: Animals in the Residence Halls

Presenters: Office of Residence Life and Student Disability Services

Slide 2:

What does the partnership between Residence Life and Student Disability Services look like?

- SDS determines eligibility and provides consultation
- ResLife implements accommodations

Slide 3:

Relevant Laws

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
- Fair Housing Act
- Ohio law
- Goal is for full participation of people with disabilities

Slide 4:

Categories of animals

- Assistance animals
- Service Animals
- Emotional Support or Comfort or companion Animals
- Therapy Animals
- Police Dogs

Slide 5:

Service Animals (not including those in training) covered under ADA

- A Dog or a miniature horse
- Must provide assistance to a person with a disability
- Must perform a task or do work related to the disability
- Right of access
- Examples of disabilities (vision, hearing, mobility, psychiatric, medical)

Slide 6:

- Who qualifies for an ESA?
- Why is an ESA needed
- Examples of psychiatric or psychological conditions for which an ESA is a reasonable accommodation in a residential setting
- importance to student

Slide 7:

Historical Perspective

- University of Nebraska Kearney
- Kent State University

- No breed restrictions
- ESA Requests seen by other universities
- Evolving process here at UT

Slide 8:

Procedure for requesting to have an ESA reside with student

1. Refer student to Student Disability Services.
2. SDS staff will review medical documentation and student narrative to determine eligibility for an ESA.

Medical documentation should:

- Be provided by a qualified professional, mental health professional strongly recommended
- State diagnosis, recommendation for ESA, and how ESA alleviates symptoms of diagnosis

3. An ESA approval memo email is sent by SDS to Residence Life staff.

Slide 9:

Residence Life Procedures

(Note: There is a 10 day waiting period so that appropriate arrangements can be made)

1. Student Meets with Brad to review responsibilities and expectations for having an ESA in the residence halls.
2. Student provides veterinary records (verification of vaccinations if applicable) and clean bill of health. Vaccination records are provided on an annual basis.
3. Animal moves into residence hall.

- A list of approved ESAs is provided to professional staff and shared with facilities staff and student staff.
- Considerations for emergency evacuation

Slide 10:

- Dogs in training covered under Ohio law
- May ask for verification of agency sponsoring training
- May ask for proof of insurance
- Dogs should be housebroken
- Sponsoring organization signs memo of understanding (MOU)
- Student signs waiver and is made aware of expectations

Slide 11:

Handling animal concerns

- Examples of concerns (noise, disruption, animal hygiene)
- - follow mediation methods and reporting process
- If informal methods are not effective, follow formal documentation process

- Staff are empowered and encouraged to handle issues by Treating animal concerns similarly to any other concerns brought to their attention

Slide 12:

- Work with students to problem-solve issues
- provide suggestions and ideas for possible solutions to the student
- Help students adjust to the college experience and living with their ESA

Slide 13:

Questions?

Concerns?