



# Policy on Emotional Support Animals in LCAD Housing

Under the Fair Housing Act (FHA), an Emotional Support Animal (ESA) is an animal that provides emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's qualified disability. ESAs are not pets and are not considered service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); rather, they are animals that have been prescribed to provide necessary support or companionship to a person with a qualifying disability.

## Important Guidelines for ESA Requests:

- Students seeking to bring an ESA to LCAD housing offered, operated, and administered directly by the university must have a verifiable disability and need for an emotional support animal. Documentation from a qualified health provider must establish the relationship between the disability and the ESA's assistance.
- The College may approve an ESA request but not necessarily the specific animal. Certain animals (e.g., reptiles or rodents) may be denied for safety or health reasons.
- It is recommended that the ESA not be younger than twelve months of age.
- ESAs are restricted to the student's immediate living space in LCAD housing. The ESA must be contained (caged or crated) any time the student is not present.
- The ESA may not be left in the care of other residents and must accompany the student when they leave overnight. Students are responsible for the ESA's behavior and any damage caused. Disruptive or unclean conditions may result in removal of the animal and financial liability for damages.
- Approved ESAs for LCAD housing are not permitted on other LCAD campuses or community spaces.



## **Process for Requesting an ESA:**

A student with a qualifying disability who is requesting an ESA should meet with the Accessibility Services Coordinator and submit their accommodation request through the Accessibility Services Office, along with the completed ESA Provider Verification Form. No ESA may reside in on-campus housing until formally approved as a reasonable accommodation.

- Verification of the student's disability and its impact on major life activities.
- Confirmation that the animal alleviates identified symptoms or serves a defined role in treatment.
- Professional provider's credentials: name, license #, contact details, and signature.

## **Student Responsibilities and Conditions for ESA**

A student may be required to remove their ESA if:

- The animal poses or has posed a direct threat to the student or others.
- The animal causes significant property damage.