

	Service Animal	Emotional Support Animal (ESA)
Legal Authority	Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)	Fair Housing Act (FHA)
Purpose	Service animals are any dog ¹ that is considered an essential element of access to an individual. They are 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 disability.	ESA's are considered an accommodation for individuals to utilize in their private living space. They provide people with therapeutic contact, usually in a clinical or private residential setting, to improve their physical, social, emotional, and/or cognitive functioning. ESA's provide companionship, relieve loneliness, and sometimes help with depression, anxiety, and certain phobias, but do not have special training to perform tasks that assist people with disabilities. ²
Type of Animal	Dog ¹	Any: As appropriate to living in college housing and not a threat to residents' health or safety.
Identification	Though it is not required by law, it is strongly recommended that a service animal be designated appropriately by a vest or leash when working to signal to others that it is doing so.	ESA's do not require designation, but should be on a leash or otherwise under the owners control whenever outside on campus and should not be in any building other than the student's personal residence.
	All animals living on campus are required to provide relevant proof of veterinary care, vaccinations, licensure, and a picture before arriving to campus.	
Training	To do work or perform specific tasks for person with disability.	Not trained to any specific task
Where allowed	May accompany person with disability anywhere the general public is permitted to go.	Must stay only in student's residence and outside when on a leash.
Is proof required?	If not obvious, the handler may be asked two questions: (1) Is the dog a service animal required by a disability? (2) What work or task is the dog trained to perform? You may not ask these questions if the need for the service animal is obvious. Examples include when a dog is guiding an individual who is blind or is pulling a person's wheelchair. You also may not ask about the nature or extent of an individual's disability, require proof that the animal has been certified, trained or licensed as a service animal, require the animal to wear an identifying vest or tag, or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the task or work.	Students need to engage the disability disclosure and accommodation request process to be approved for an ESA as a reasonable accommodation. This process requires supporting documentation from a mental health professional. Hamp.it/requestaccommodations

¹ They also include miniature ponies, but it is unreasonable to allow their access, care, and use on a college campus, so we focus on dogs in the context of service animals at Hampshire College. Exceptions are always made on a case- by-case basis.

² <https://adata.org/publication/service-animals-booklet>