

# Disability-Related Animals on Campus

## Summary of University Policy

Part of the SLDS "Quick Reference Guide" series. For more guides, visit [go.osu.edu/slds-guides](https://go.osu.edu/slds-guides)

This document is designed to provide the campus community with a working knowledge of the University's policy on disability-related animals on campus. To view the full policy or if you have questions, please contact the ADA Coordinator's Office: [ADA-OSU@osu.edu](mailto:ADA-OSU@osu.edu), (614) 292-6207.

|                                                                           | Service Animal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Emotional Support Animal (ESA)                                                                                                                                                                            | Visiting Therapy Animal                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Purpose</b>                                                            | Trained* to provide an <u>active</u> task (e.g. environment navigation) that mitigates impact of handler's disability.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Provide <u>passive</u> support (e.g. handler's relationship with animal) to mitigate impact of handler's disability.                                                                                      | Provide wellness, stress reduction, or therapeutic short-term visits to the university community within a designated location.   |
| <b>Species Restrictions</b>                                               | Dogs (or rarely, miniature horses).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Species deemed safe for the environment and community.                                                                                                                                                    | Species deemed safe for the environment and community.                                                                           |
| <b>Requirements for Handler to Submit Request for University Approval</b> | No approval, request, documentation, or proof of training is required. If a service animal's role is not apparent, you can ask the handler (1) "Is that a service animal for a disability?" and (2) "What service does it perform for you?"                                                                                                                                                                                       | Handler must make request for a reasonable accommodation. This request requires the handler to provide the University supporting documentation from a medical professional (see full policy for details). | Handler(s) must have prior permission from program/office sponsoring an event and/or occupying the facilities.                   |
| <b>Environments Accessible to Animal</b>                                  | Generally anywhere their handlers are permitted on campus (exceptions may exist for health/safety; if a concern, consult with ADA Coordinator).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Specific campus areas, after University approval. This is typically the handler's housing facility, but does not preclude requests for other areas on campus.                                             | Specific facilities, with permission of relevant program/office (e.g. <a href="#">Wexner Medical Center's Pet Pal Program</a> ). |
| <b>Behavior Expectations</b>                                              | All animals are the responsibility of their handlers and should be under their control and housebroken. An animal's behavior is considered the handler's behavior; the animal will be held to the same basic standard of conduct as their handlers. If they are disruptive to university business or community behavioral expectations, handlers may be asked to correct the animal's behavior or remove it from the environment. |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                  |

\*Service Animals in Training are recognized by [Ohio Revised Code 955.43](#). Service Animals in Training must have a liability insurance policy provided by the nonprofit agency sponsoring the training and be under control. Typically, puppy rearing (under six months of age) focused on socialization and general obedience training is not considered Service Animal training.