

University Policy regarding Emotional Support and Service Animals	Effective Date: March 5, 2014
Access: Public Related policies: ADA Accommodations Policy	Position(s) responsible for facilitating compliance: Disability Services, Human Resources, Campus Safety, Center for Events and Management Development

Policy

Niagara University works to create a campus that is welcoming and inclusive of all. While we must not allow pets on campus, service animals are a valued resource to those with disabilities, while emotional support animals can also address emotional needs. To ensure Niagara University can plan a positive experience for those who use service animals, and to provide a chance to evaluate the use of Emotional Support Animals, we will follow the below procedure.

Definitions

A “service animal” is a dog or miniature horse that is trained to perform specific tasks for a person with a disability. **No prior permission or evaluation is needed to have a service animal on campus.**

An “Emotional Support Animal” is an animal used by a person with a disability to assist with symptom management, **and is evaluated as any other accommodation.**

Person	Action
Person using service animal	Alert Campus Safety (guest), Human Resources (employee), or Disability Services (Student) regarding if there are needs or considerations your service animal requires.
Person with Emotional Support Animal (ESA)	Alert Campus Safety (guest), Human Resources (employee), or Disability Services (Student) so reasonable accommodations can be considered under the appropriate policy and regulations to allow your animal on

	campus. Campus Safety should be alerted to all authorized ESA's.
Public Relations	Notify community members as appropriate.
Faculty who are requested by student to allow ESA in class	Reach out to Disability Services to evaluate request and ensure faculty member has proper awareness to facilitate any accommodation. NOTE: Service animals are allowed in class without pre-arranged permission. If a faculty member feels unsafe with a service animal, they should contact Campus Safety for input and assistance immediately.
Campus Safety	Enforces policy by assessing if animal on campus is a service animal, authorized ESA, or unauthorized animal, and taking action as necessary.
Director of Facilities, Employee Relations Manager OR Dean of Students (as appropriate), Risk Manager, Director of Counseling Services, Director of Disability Services ("ESA Evaluation Group")	Evaluate request for ESA based on the law, latest guidelines and best practices (including financial factors, damage to property, risk to others, and if the presence of the animal would alter the nature of the class or activity). If ESA is allowed, develop an a letter of agreement with owner to create favorable conditions for all.
Residence Life	Maintain rules regarding animals in residence halls not inconsistent with this policy. <i>NOTE: Freshwater fish in tanks that are 10 gallons or smaller are allowed. Student must remove fish from residence halls and empty and unplug fish tanks during break periods.</i>