

08.01.02.R0.01 **Animals on Campus**

Revised February 2, 2026
Next Scheduled Review: February 2, 2031



Procedure Summary

East Texas A&M University (University) will comply with applicable federal and state laws regarding the provision of reasonable accommodations for employees, students, and members of the public with disabilities regarding the use of service, emotional support, or therapy animals on campus.

This procedure establishes the protocol for the presence of service, emotional support, and therapy animals on the university's campus and at off-site locations in accordance with The A&M University System (System) Regulation *08.01.02 Civil Rights Protections for Individuals with Disabilities and Certain Other Employees*.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1 SERVICE ANIMALS

- 1.1 A service animal is permitted on campus grounds and within university buildings with limited exceptions and restrictions. This practice follows the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as amended.
 - 1.1.1 The service animal must have been trained as a service animal in the specific work or tasks directly related to the person's disability.
 - 1.1.2 The service animal will be licensed, registered, and immunized as applicable and in accordance with state, county, and city laws, regulations, and ordinances.
 - 1.1.2.1 Vaccination records - The service animal must have updated vaccinations, including but not limited to the general maintenance vaccine series and any vaccinations deemed necessary by a licensed veterinarian.
 - 1.1.2.2 Licensing - All City of Commerce licensing laws and tag laws must be followed.
- 1.2 While on campus, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the individual's disability prevents using these devices. In such cases, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.

- 1.3 In all cases, the partner/handler of the animal is responsible for the animal's behavior and associated costs for cleaning, repairs, and/or pest control. The exclusion of a service animal from campus will be based on at least one of the following reasons:
 - 1.3.1 The animal is not under the control of the partner/handler, and the partner/handler does not take effective action to control it.
 - 1.3.2 The animal is not housebroken.
 - 1.3.3 The animal poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others.
 - 1.3.4 The animal's presence fundamentally alters the nature of a program or activity.
 - 1.3.5 The partner/handler fails to comply with any of their responsibilities under this procedure.
- 1.4 Student Disability Services (SDS) will develop a process for service animals for students to supplement the requirements identified within this procedure.
- 1.5 Employees are not allowed to request any documentation for the service animal, require that the service animal demonstrate its work or task, or inquire about the nature of the person's disability.
- 1.6 When it is not obvious what service an animal provides, only limited inquiries are allowed. Specifically, the partner/handler may only be asked if the service animal is required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to perform.

2 EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS

- 2.1 In accordance with federal and state law (Fair Housing Act), emotional support animals are permitted within on-campus housing and areas immediately surrounding the residential facilities for approved students with disabilities on a case-by-case basis. Students seeking approval to use an emotional support animal within on-campus housing will be required to submit an application and/or verification form, along with other paperwork, to SDS for a determination of eligibility.
- 2.2 Individuals with a disability may be entitled to keep an emotional support animal as a reasonable accommodation in housing facilities that otherwise impose restrictions or prohibitions on animals. To qualify for such an accommodation, the emotional support animal must be necessary to afford the individual an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling or to participate in the house service or program. Further, there must be a relationship between the individual's disability and the assistance the animal provides.
- 2.3 Emotional support animals are not permitted in other university buildings or facilities.
- 2.4 Emotional support animals are not considered to be service animals, and improperly representing an emotional support animal as a service animal violates the State of Texas Human Resources Code Section 121.006(a), and may be a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

3 SDS THERAPY ANIMALS

- 3.1 SDS, with approval from the System, Office of Risk Management, Office of University Ethics and Compliance, and Procurement Services, is permitted to use one therapy animal on university-controlled property.
- 3.2 The therapy animal will be under the supervision of an SDS staff member while the animal is on campus.
- 3.3 The therapy animal will be trained for safety around a diverse range of people and situations in the university setting.
- 3.4 SDS will retain a protocol that outlines the health, grooming, student access to, and daily logistics of the assigned therapy animal.

4 GUIDANCE COMMON TO SERVICE, EMOTIONAL SUPPORT, AND THERAPY ANIMALS

- 4.1 The animal will be licensed and immunized in accordance with state, county, and city laws, regulations, and ordinances, if applicable.
- 4.2 The animal must be in good health and care. The care and supervision of the animal is solely the responsibility of its partner/handler. Animals that are ill must not be taken into public areas. A partner/handler with a sick animal may be asked to remove the animal from university premises.
- 4.3 The University requires the partner/handler to clean up after their animal relieves itself. A partner/handler with a disability who physically cannot clean up after their animal will make all necessary arrangements for assistance.
- 4.4 In accordance with System Regulation *15.99.07 Use of Vertebrate Animals*, the University will make provisions for appropriate animal husbandry and veterinary care for privately owned animals housed on campus when they are not used for research, teaching, or testing.

5 ACCOMMODATIONS

Requests for reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities should be made through Student Disability Services (903) 886-5150. All other reasonable requests from faculty/staff/student-employees or the public should be made through the Human Resources office.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

[Fair Housing Act \(FHAct\)](#)

[Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended \(Section 504\)](#)

[Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended \(ADA\)](#)

System Regulation [08.01.02 Civil Rights Protections for Individuals with Disabilities and Certain other Employees](#)

System Regulation [15.99.07 Use of Vertebrate Animals](#)

[SOP# 112 Service Animals in Laboratories](#)

Suspends University Procedure *08.01.01.R0.02 Service and Emotional Support Animals on Campus*

Definitions

Approved Trainer: An individual who has been certified by an organization whose primary mission is to train service animals for people with disabilities.

Emotional Support Animal (ESA): An animal that works, performs tasks, or provides assistance to an individual with a disability upon the recommendation of a healthcare or mental health professional; its role is to alleviate the symptoms of an individual's disability, but not to assist an individual with a disability with activities of daily living.

Service Animal: A dog (or a miniature horse, provided it meets the same work and safety requirements as a dog) trained to assist people with disabilities in the activities of daily living. As defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), only dogs and miniature horses qualify as Service Animals; "other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals..."

Service Animal in Training: A dog or miniature horse that is being trained as a Service Animal. For this policy, all statements that pertain to Service Animals apply equally to Service Animals in Training who are accompanied by an approved trainer.

Therapy Animal: A trained animal that provides therapeutic comfort to multiple people in different settings, including schools. Unlike a Service Animal that assists a specific individual, a therapy animal is part of a team with its handler. It works with many different people in a professional capacity to improve physical, social, or emotional well-being.

Revision History

Approved May 29, 2024
November 7, 2024 (University Name Update)

Contact Office

Employees and Third Parties

Human Resources

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Students

Student Disability Services

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