

Service Animals and Emotional Support Animals

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), College employees, students, and members of the public may bring a service animal to campus. Service animals are defined as dogs (and, in some cases, miniature horses) that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. The service animal must be trained, well-groomed, and under the control of the handler at all times.

Employees bringing a service animal to campus should contact Human Resources. Questions about students bringing a service animal to campus should be directed to the Disability Access Services. Members of the community who are on campus with a service animal should be directed to Public Safety. A person who brings a service animal to campus will only be asked two questions in accordance with the law:

1. Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?
2. What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?

Dogs and other animals whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA. Students must contact Disability Access Service (DAS) before bringing an emotional support animal (ESA) to campus. Students must fill out the DAS "Request for Services" and provide documentation that meets the DAS guidelines. The documentation must demonstrate an established relationship with the psychiatric treatment provider and a clear nexus that the ESA is a part of the psychiatric treatment for the student. Once approved, the DAS office will notify the student's professors about the animal.

Animals that are intrinsically predatory, dangerous, or have public health risks (i.e., carry containable diseases such as salmonella) can be denied access to campus due to community health and safety concerns.

FCC faculty, staff, and community members are not responsible for the safety and well-being of animals in emergencies. The animal's handler is expected to be accountable for the animal at all times.