

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS AT JSU



Message from the Assistant Director



Welcome to Jackson State University's Disability Services Department! I am Dr. Arron Richardson, and I am excited to support you throughout your academic journey. This PowerPoint presentation will guide you through the application process for an emotional support animal (ESA) and provide essential information about the rules and guidelines for having an ESA on campus. Please review the slides carefully to ensure a smooth and successful experience. If you have any questions or need assistance, our dedicated Disability Services team is here to help.

Contents

- 1. Federal Guidelines**
- 2. Benefits of Emotional Support Animals**
- 3. Jackson State University's Policy on Emotional Support Animals**
- 4. The Application Process**
- 5. Responsibilities of ESA Owners While on Campus**
- 6. Conclusion**
- 7. Contact Information**



Federal Guidelines

Under the Fair Housing Act (FHA), individuals with disabilities have the right to reasonable accommodations for emotional support animals (ESAs) in housing, even in properties with "no pets" policies. ESAs can range from animals like dogs to miniature horses that provide the necessary support to individuals with disabilities. Housing providers can request documentation from a licensed mental health professional verifying the need for an ESA. While accommodations must be made, providers may consider factors like the animal's size, behavior, and potential property damage.



Benefits of Having an ESA on Campus

The presence of an ESA can help reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation, promoting a sense of belonging and well-being. Interacting with an ESA has been shown to lower stress levels and alleviate symptoms of anxiety or depression, creating a calming effect. Additionally, ESAs can provide a routine and structure, encouraging students to engage in physical activity, spend time outdoors, and establish a healthy work-life balance. Overall, having an ESA on campus can contribute to a positive and supportive environment, fostering emotional well-being and enhancing the overall college experience for students.



Jackson State Policy on Emotional Support Animals

Jackson State University has a strict campus policy for emotional support animals (ESAs). ESAs are only allowed in the residence hall, and students must submit a completed ESA Application before bringing an animal to campus. Students must adhere to the deadlines specified in the application and allow a minimum of 48-72 hours for Disability Services staff to review and respond to their ESA application. Bringing an animal to campus without written approval from the Disability Service office is strictly prohibited. For all pertinent information, including the ESA application, please visit the Disability Services website. (see Forms and Additional Information)



The Application Process

1. Apply and be accepted to Jackson State University
2. Complete application for housing (must adhere to Housing deadlines)
3. Complete Housing Accommodations Registration form and submit completed Service and Emotional Support Animal Registration Packet (see Forms and Additional Information on our website)
4. Submit supporting documentation from licensed physician or therapist
5. Allow 48-72 hours for Disability Services to review your request.



Responsibilities of ESA Owners While on Campus

ESA owners on the campus of Jackson State University have important responsibilities to ensure the well-being and safety of the entire community. They must provide proper animal care, including regular feeding, grooming, and veterinary care. ESA owners should ensure their animals are well-behaved and comply with university policies and regulations. Keeping ESAs within approved areas, such as the residence hall, and adhering to guidelines contribute to a positive campus environment.



Conclusion

In conclusion, emotional support animals (ESAs) at Jackson State University are valued for providing comfort and support to individuals with disabilities. The ESA policy and the responsibilities of ESA owners foster a harmonious and inclusive campus environment. By fulfilling their obligations, ESA owners contribute to the entire community's well-being. Jackson State University is committed to supporting students' mental health by providing resources and accommodations for ESAs.



Contact Information

ARRON.L.RICHARDSON@JSUMS.EDU

601-979-2829



SAMANTHA.E.MANNING@JSUMS.EDU

601-979-3704

