

CATEGORY: DISABILITY SERVICES

SUBJECT: Emotional Support Animals (ESA)

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Amendment Act, the Maine Human Rights Act, and the Fair Housing Act, students with documented disabilities for whom it has been deemed necessary to mitigate the effects of a physical or mental disability will be permitted to live with an emotional support animal. A student who has an ESA on campus must keep the animal under control at all times and not permit the animal to interfere with the campus living, learning or work environment of others. An ESA must be contained within the owner's privately assigned individual living accommodation (e.g. Room) except to the extent the individual is taking the animal out for natural relief. A request mid-semester may have to wait until the beginning of the next term to allow an ESA to take up residence, even if approved. Emotional support animals that pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others, cannot be effectively controlled by the owner, or are not housebroken will not be allowed as an accommodation.

Students must make the request to have an ESA to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator when he/she is making a request for student housing through the College registrar and must meet the housing guidelines. Students must also follow the Eligibility for Accommodation(s) policy and procedure when requesting accommodations. Determination of the need for the ESA may be made by a physician, psychologist, physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, or licensed social worker. The ESA must meet the licensing requirements of Lewiston, display such tag, and be vaccinated against diseases common in the animal as determined by a licensed Maine veterinarian. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the ADA Coordinator, including annual documentation of the animal's clean bill of health.

The student bears all financial responsibility for any property damage caused by his/her ESA including but not limited to the cost of repairs, replacement or cleaning of facilities or furnishings, and any bodily injury or personal injury caused to other persons by the ESA. If a student leaves campus overnight, the student must take the animal with him/her. Students must provide contact information for an alternative caregiver in case of emergency.

Animals must be housebroken, or provided an appropriate "place" for natural relief. Owners are responsible for having animals toilet in an appropriate area and clean up after their animals. If being taken outside for natural relief, the animal must be in control by the student, generally by leash or harness. Animals must not pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others.

Potential roommates will be notified that a request for an animal has been made to determine that there is not a conflict (disability information will not be shared). Students should not bring an ESA to campus until they have been expressly notified of approval by the registrar.

Approved: _____
Monika Bissell, DBA
President

Date: January 14, 2016
Amended: January 12, 2018