

OFFICE OF ACCESSIBILITY

I saw a student on campus with a dog. How do I know if it is a service dog?

If you see someone with a dog on campus and want to determine if it is a service dog, there are only **TWO** questions that may be asked, legally. (NO questions, if it is obvious, such as with a guide dog.)

1. *Is this dog a service animal required because of a disability?*
 - If “NO,” you may continue with further questions, such as, “Do you have an accommodation allowing it in this area?” (verify with OA, if needed)
 - If “YES,” you may NOT ask about the disability.
2. If the animal is on campus due to a disability, you may ask, *“What task is it trained to perform?”*
 - You may not ask for a demonstration. 🤔

What is an emotional support animal (ESA)?

An *“emotional support animal”* is an animal of any species that, by its mere presence, provides comfort and/or support to an individual with a disability. An ESA is an accommodation and therefore, must be approved via the Office of Accessibility.



Assistive Animals 101

Is there a policy that provides regulations/requirements concerning ESAs? What happens if an animal is out of control/disruptive?



The *Fair Housing Act* requires that ESAs be considered a reasonable accommodation in campus housing. In order to be approved for an emotional support animal, students must comply with the Winthrop University Emotional Support Animal policy.

If an animal is disruptive, we may ask the owner to obtain control and/or resolve the disturbance. If persistent, we may require the owner to escort the animal off campus.

NOTE: Neither service dogs nor ESAs are required to wear a vest, ID tag, or special harness.

Are emotional support animals allowed outside a student's room?

Yes, they are! Regulations created under the Fair Housing Act apply to housing facilities. ESAs may accompany their owners while in the owner's housing area.

ESAs are not typically allowed in other areas of campus, *except* on a case-by-case basis.

Please contact the Office of Accessibility if you have questions about an ESA's presence in specific areas on campus.

