



## SERVICE AND SUPPORT ANIMALS POLICY

### PURPOSE

Long Island University is committed to ensuring equal access for disabled students, staff, and faculty, as well as guests and visitors to its campuses. It is LIU's policy to permit Service Animals, as defined below by the Americans with Disabilities Act, in all approved campus areas; and it may permit Emotional Support Animals (Support Animals), as a reasonable accommodation, in the residence halls for students with a documented disability and approved accommodation.

### STATEMENT OF POLICY

If a service animal meets the ADA definition of a service animal (i.e., an animal specifically trained to perform service tasks), then the student may be asked two questions:

- Is this a service animal that is required because of a disability?
- What work or tasks has the animal been trained to perform?

Under the federal Fair Housing Act (FHA), an emotional support animal (Support Animal) is viewed as a "reasonable accommodation" in a housing unit that has a "no pets" rule for its residents. Support Animals may not be brought onto campus and/or into residential housing assignments without prior notice and approval. Once approved, Support Animals are only permitted to remain within the student's on-campus housing assignment. Support Animals are not permitted in other University Buildings or Classrooms, without approved permission. Each request for a Service Animal and permission is reviewed on a case-by-case basis and requires advanced documentation as outlined in this policy.

Student Affairs personnel will make a reasonable effort to notify tenants in the residence building where the Approved Animal will be located.

Students with medical condition(s) that are affected by animals (e.g., respiratory diseases, asthma, severe allergies) are asked to contact the Learning Center if they have a health or safety related concern about exposure to a Service or Support Animal. The University is prepared to also reasonably accommodate individuals with such medical conditions that require accommodation when living in proximity to Service or Support Animals.

The Learning Center will resolve any conflict in a timely manner. Staff members will consider the conflicting needs and/or accommodations of all persons involved. The Learning Center staff may defer to the Healthy Living team as a resource for information on health issues. In the event that an agreement cannot be reached, the Learning Center's decision is final and not subject to appeal.

## PROCEDURES

See *Service and Support Animals Procedures*.

## DEFINITIONS

*Service animal:* A service animal is generally a dog or miniature horse that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. In other words, not only must the service animal be approved, but the animal must be trained to perform specific tasks – “the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.” The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability.

*Support animal:* A support animal is usually a dog, rabbit, cat or other common domestic animal that provides therapeutic/emotional support to an individual with an identified disability.

*Work or Tasks performed by a service animal:* Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors.

## POLICY TYPE: OPERATIONS