

## **McDaniel College Student Accessibility and Support Services Documentation Guidelines and Procedure:**

### **Emotional Support Animal (ESA) Accommodations**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Student Accessibility and Support Services (SASS) offers housing accommodations to students with disabilities when appropriate. A disability is defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act as “a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities.” Major life activities may include, but are not limited to seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, thinking, concentrating, reading, communicating, etc. A temporary impairment may include a severe illness, injury, or condition caused by a traumatic event.

An Emotional Support Animals (ESA) is defined as a companion animal that brings a therapeutic benefit that is directly related to a residential student’s diagnosed disability. An ESA is not a pet or a service animal. ESAs do not travel with the student and are only permitted in the student’s designated residence hall bedroom.

#### **Emotional Support Animal Documentation Guidelines and Procedures:**

1. Submit the [online accommodation registration form](#) with SASS
2. Submit [Emotional Support Animal Provider Form](#) which will be completed by the student’s health care professional
3. Complete intake meeting with SASS
4. If approved through SASS, students will be required to submit the following to the Office of Residence Life:
  - a. Veterinary documentation to have the animal reside on campus
  - b. A current license number for the animal (per state/county regulations)
  - c. Photograph of the animal

#### **Emotional Support Animal Guidelines:**

- The ESA must remain within the student residence hall room. If taken outside, the ESA must be on a harness or leash or otherwise under the handler’s direct control.
- The ESA is not permitted in the dining hall, academic buildings, residential facility common spaces, or other public spaces on campus other than the student’s designated residence hall room.
- McDaniel College reserves the right to exclude an ESA from campus if any of the following occur:
  - The ESA is out of control and the student does not take effective action to control it.
  - The ESA is not housebroken.
  - The ESA poses or has posed a direct threat to the health and safety of the individual or others.
  - The ESA is physically ill.