

# FAST FACTS ABOUT ANIMALS ON CAMPUS

A **Service Animal (SA)** is defined by the law as a dog (or miniature horse) that is **individually trained** to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. The **SA** must be trained to recognize and respond to the person's environment and actions. The job or task **MUST** be directly related to the person's disability.

- An animal that provides emotional support, well-being, or companionship that alleviates the symptoms of a **documented disability** is an **Emotional Support Animal (ESA)**.
- **Service Animals (SAs)** must be allowed to go anywhere the person with a disability is allowed to go, including dining facilities and transportation (CatTRAN).
- **Service Animals** do not have to wear identifying tags, harnesses, or vests. However, most true service animals do in order to prevent problems. **SAs** do NOT have to be registered or certified.
- All animals (**SAs and ESAs**) in campus buildings must be housebroken and under the control of the handler at all times.
- When it is not obvious that the dog is a **Service Animal**, faculty and staff may ask: 1) Is this animal required for you as a person with a disability?; and 2) what work or task is the dog trained to perform?
- A **Service-Animal-in-Training** is not recognized by Federal law as a Service Animal. North Carolina law allows a **Service-Animal-in-Training** IF the animal is accompanying a trainer for the specific purpose of training to become a **Service Animal** (i.e. is being individually trained to perform a task or to do work for a person with a disability).
- A dog that is undergoing basic obedience training and socialization is NOT, by definition, a **Service Animal** OR a **Service-Animal-in-Training** and is therefore NOT allowed in residence halls, dining facilities, on the CatTRAN, or in academic buildings.
- **Emotional Support Animals (ESAs)**, when approved, are approved for housing only. To begin this process, students should contact Residential Living, 225 Brown Hall, 828.227.7303.
- **ESAs** are NOT allowed in dining facilities, on the CatTRAN, or in academic buildings.
- **ESAs** in the classroom is an academic accommodation that must go through same process as any other accommodation and must have a Letter of Accommodation.

## Example of jobs or tasks an SA may perform:

*Guiding a person who is blind; Providing stability for a person who has difficulty walking; Alerting a person with a hearing impairment when someone is approaching; Responding to a medical emergency for a diabetic or someone with a seizure disorder.*



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Office of Accessibility Resources  
137 Killian Annex  
828.227.3886 or [accessibility@wcu.edu](mailto:accessibility@wcu.edu).  
More information can be found at [accessibility.wcu.edu](http://accessibility.wcu.edu).

