Emotional Support/Assistance Animals

- An Emotional Support Animal (ESA animal) is not the same as a Service Animal and does not have the same ADA protections.
- The Fair Housing Act (FHA) does however include therapy, emotional support, and comfort animals, as well as Service animals as part of the law.
- The law imposes no training requirements however the student must still have a qualifying disability. There must be a link between the “service” or support the animal provides and the disability.
- ESA dogs are not required to wear a vest or tag however we do recommend that students get one to avoid questioning.
- Certification or disability verification is not required to be carried and cannot be asked for by law, but again we recommend you have one available to avoid confusion.
- Students are responsible for meeting legal requirements (vaccinations, Licensure, ID tags, etc).
- Students are responsible for any damage caused by their animals and must take appropriate precautions to prevent property damage or injury.
- The care, supervision, and well-being of an ESA animal is the sole responsibility of the student at all times.
- An animal may be removed from any campus facility if there is unruly or disruptive behavior (barking excessively, exhibiting aggressive behavior) or if the animal is not housebroken.
- ESA animals need to be controlled (on a leash or harness) when working on campus
- Medical documentation from a qualified medical professional is required along with the nature of the disability and how the animal is necessary to provide the student with assistance. Please see attached for an example.
- If you are interested in having an Emotional Support/Assistance Animal at CSULB please contact Rachel Mahgerefteh Disabled Student Services at 562-985-4635 for more information.

For more information on ESA animals please visit [http://servicedogcentral.org/content/ESA](http://servicedogcentral.org/content/ESA)