

**FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES
SERVICE DOG VS. AN EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL (ESA)**

When it is not obvious what service a dog provides, there are only two questions that can be asked:

1. Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?
 2. What work or task has the dog been trained to do to mitigate the disability?
- **Question #1** – If the answer is no, the dog is not a services dog but may be an Emotional Support Animal (ESA).
 - **Question #2** – If the student is unable to answer with specific information, the dog is not a service animal but may be an ESA.

SERVICE ANIMALS VERSUS EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS	
Service Animals	Emotional Support Animals (ESA)
Limited to dogs or miniature horses.	Species not defined. Can be any species but typically is a dog or a cat.
Assists a person with a disability by performing a specific task they have been trained to do.	Alleviates symptoms of a disability, usually a psychological disability.
Trained to perform a specific task by a specialized organization.	Not trained for a specific task by an specialized organization.
Does not need to register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) but must meet with an SAS consultant and provide current vaccination records for the service dog.	Must register with SAS by submitting an Application for Academic Accommodations, documentation (clearly linking the ESA to the disability), current vaccinations records (dog, cat, or ferrets), and completing an intake appointment.
May be eligible for academic accommodations. If academic accommodations are requested, must register with SAS.	May be eligible for academic accommodations. If academic accommodations are requested, must register with SAS.
Unlimited campus access.	Restricted campus access. Limited to residence hall. May leave residence hall only for nature breaks.
Must be under the owner's control at all times.	Must be under the owner's control at all times. ESA care must be provided solely by the owner. ESA cannot be left alone or with anyone else overnight.
828.30 All dogs, cats and ferrets (including Service Animals) on campus are required to have current rabies vaccines and wear rabies vaccination tags. 413.08 (6b) A housing accommodation may request proof of compliance with vaccination requirements.	828.30 All dogs, cats and ferrets (including Service Animals) on campus are required to have current rabies vaccines and wear rabies vaccination tags. 413.08 (6b) A housing accommodation may request proof of compliance with vaccination requirements.

****ESAs are sometimes referred to as *Comfort Animals* or *Therapy Animals*.**