A 2.1.2 Service Animals and Emotional Support Animal Policy

East Central University is committed to providing reasonable services and accommodations for students and employees with identified and federally protected disabilities. The University recognizes the importance of Service Animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Amendments Act of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADAA) of 2008, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as well as Assistance Animals (e.g. Service Animals and Emotional Support Animals) as defined under the Fair Housing Act. There are differences in the processes required and, in the accommodations, provided to individuals with identified disabilities supported by Service Animals and Emotional Support Animals.

Service Animals:

As defined by ADA regulations (35.136(i)), a trained miniature horse may be used as an alternative to a dog; however, beginning in 2011, only dogs are recognized as Service Animals under Titles II and III of the ADA. (Title II: Covers Public/Government Employers and Employees with Disabilities. Title III: Covers Places of Public Accommodation and Public Areas in Commercial Facilities.) The work the Service Animal has been trained to do must directly relate to the person's disability. Examples include, but are not limited to:

Service Animals will be allowed in the workplace only if are required because of a disability and the animal is trained and certified to perfom certain task for the disabled person.

The work the Service Animal has been trained to do must directly relate to the person's disability. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Helping a blind or low-vision person with navigation or other tasks
- Alerting a person who is deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds
- Pulling a wheelchair
- Alerting and protecting a person with a seizure disorder or other type of acute-onset medical condition
- Alerting a person to the presence of life-threatening allergens
- Reminding a person with mental illnesses to take prescribed medications

Emotional Support Animals:

The Department of Justice explicitly states that the following animals are not considered Service Animals under Title II and III of ADA:

- Any animals besides dogs—regardless of whether they are domestic or trained;
- Animals that serve solely to provide a crime deterrent effect; and
- Emotional support, comfort or companionship animals (a clear distinction between Service Animal that are trained to respond to an individual's needs, and untrained "emotional support" animals whose mere presence may positively affect a person's disability by serving as a companion).

Emotional Support Animals are not allowed in the workplace at ECU.