Rose State College recognizes that some types of disabilities may require animal assistance as an accommodation. There are two categories of animals that may be allowed on campus to provide assistance to students with disabilities – service animals and emotional support animals. Below is an overview of what animals qualify and things to consider if you are requesting to have an animal on campus as a disability accommodation. To explore this issue further or for more specific information, feel free to contact Janet Griffith, Coordinator for Students with Disabilities Services at (405) 733-7407; jgriffith@rose.edu.

**Service Animals**

Service animals are defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) as:

*Any dog or miniature horse that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.*

The work or task that the service animal performs must be directly related to the individual’s disability, such as:

- assisting those with low vision
- alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing
- pulling a wheelchair or stabilizing a person's gait
- retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone
- recognizing and assisting during seizures
- alerting individuals who may be experiencing flashbacks of emotional trauma providing stability for mobility purposes
- A dog or miniature horse are the two types of animals that are designated as service animals. Animals providing emotional support or companionship do not qualify as service animals.

Subject to some limitations, a service animal (usually a dog) may generally accompany students throughout campus, such as classrooms, recreational facilities and campus residences. It is expected that a service animal be identifiable to others through a visible signifier (e.g., vest or harness).

- In some instances, miniature horses may also be considered for use by an individual with a disability if the miniature horse has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of the individual with a disability. To determine whether a miniature horse may be an appropriate accommodation, the following will be considered:
(i) The type, size, and weight of the miniature horse and whether applicable College facilities accommodate these features;

(ii) Whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse;

(iii) Whether the miniature horse is housebroken; and

(iv) Whether the miniature horse's presence in a specific facility compromises legitimate safety requirements that are necessary for safe operation.

Beyond this, other considerations as may be required or allowed under federal or state disability laws may apply. Requests for use of a miniature horse for accommodation of a disability will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Students with non-apparent disabilities who use a service dog are strongly encouraged to use Students with Disabilities Services as a means of verifying the need as an accommodation while on campus.

**Emotional Support Animals**

In some instances, disabled students may be allowed to have a domesticated emotional support animal within campus housing facilities. These animals may alleviate one or more identified symptoms or effects of a disability and are referred to as “emotional support” based on the function they perform for the student. All requests for Emotional Support Animals as an accommodation in campus housing facilities must be approved by the Director of Residence Life, upon the recommendation of the Coordinator for Students with Disabilities Services.

**Note:** There is no entity certifying the status of an animal as an Emotional Support Animal that is recognized by Rose State College. Accommodations of Emotional Support Animals is a recognized compliance item with regard to Fair Housing in Oklahoma.

A student may be able to have a domesticated emotional support animal in a campus housing unit as a reasonable accommodation if:

- the student has a verifiable disability; and
- the animal is necessary to afford the student with a disability an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling; and there is an identifiable relationship or nexus between the disability and the support the animal provides.

If a student is allowed to have an emotional support animal, it will be restricted to only the private portion of the animal’s student-owner’s dwelling. The common kitchen and living area of the apartment style housing units are not part of the private dwelling. Exceptions to this restriction are defined below. Further, in contrast with approved Service Animals, Emotional Support Animals may not be allowed to enter classrooms, recreational facilities or other campus buildings.
Limitations and Things to Consider for Service and Emotional Support Animals

- The student-owner is responsible for controlling the animal and its behavior
- The student-owner is responsible for the care and well-being of the animal, including appropriate inoculations, on-going, regular flea and tick control and heartworm prevention (as appropriate)
- The student-owner is responsible for all clean up and/or damages associated with the animal
- The student-owner is responsible for the animal’s digestive elimination needs
- For animals that relieve themselves outside, the student-owner must maintain leashed control of the animal at all times
- The student-owner is responsible for educating his or her roommate (s) and others in the campus community (including student-owners of other animals) on how to appropriately interact with the animal
- Animals need to be well cared for, clean and hygienic
- Animals must be in good health with regular checkups and must comply with all state and local licensure and vaccination requirements
- Documentation of vaccinations and licensure are required if the student and animal reside in campus housing facilities
- Animals that may fundamentally alter RSC’s operations (including housing operations) may not be allowed
- Animals that may cause substantial physical damage may not be allowed
- Animals cannot be a threat to the health or safety of others
- Animals will not be allowed if they pose an undue financial or administrative burden to the university
- Apartment units provide approximately 200 square footage of living space in the private portion of the dwelling. Although size of the animal will not be a disqualifying factor, students are encouraged to consider the quality of life, exercise needs and overall comfort of a larger animal
- Endangered or non-domesticated exotic animals will not be approved as Emotional Support Animals
- Non-compliance with any of the above guidelines may result in the College requiring correction of the identified deficiencies within a reasonable time period. In some cases, reasonable may be immediate. Failure to address and correct deficiencies may result in the College requiring removal of the animal from housing
- For additional information on disability documentation guidelines and/or the accommodation process, please contact Janet Griffith, Coordinator for Students with Disabilities Services at (405) 733-7407; jgriffith@rose.edu.