



EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL POLICY

Baker College defines an emotional support animal (ESA) as one that provides emotional support alleviating one or more identified symptoms or effects of an individual's disability.

The health and safety of Baker College students, faculty, staff, and ESAs are an important concern; therefore, each request for such an accommodation will be made on a case by case basis. Only in cases where animals and the relevant facts satisfy the applicable criteria described below will the animal be exempt from rules that otherwise restrict or prohibit animals being on campus. Requests for an accommodation regarding assistance animals must be supported by official documentation for proper consideration of the request.

In all cases, the owner of the animal is responsible for the animal's behavior. The removal of any animal, including, but not limited to, emotional support animals, and any necessary cleaning, repairs and/or pest control will be done at the expense of the animal owner who may also be subject to disciplinary action. An ESA may be subject to an individualized behavior assessment that relies on objective evidence about the specific animal's actual conduct.

ESAs are to be confined to a student's residence and common areas open to residents only. ESAs are strictly prohibited from all other areas of campus.

Baker College may require applicants to submit reliable documentation of a disability and their disability-related need for an ESA. The documentation may be requested from physician, psychiatrist, social worker, or other mental health professional that the animal provides emotional support that alleviates one or more of the identified symptoms or effects of an existing disability. Verification from a psychologist, psychiatrist, social worker, or other licensed mental health professional with whom the student has established an on-going therapeutic relationship, substantiating the need for a disability-related animal per applicable laws and regulations. Information that will be collected includes: (1) Does the person seeking to use and live with the animal have a disability — i.e., a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities? And (2) Does the person making the request have a disability-related need for an assistance animal? In other words, does the animal work, provide assistance, perform tasks or services for the benefit of a person with a disability, or provide emotional support that alleviates one or more of the identified symptoms or effects of a person's existing disability? The provider must be licensed in the state of Michigan or the student's home state.

Baker College will make available the name and contact information of the Disability Services Specialist for each Campus if requested by the student and/or provider.