

ESA Emergency Response Agreement

While we are concerned for the wellbeing of ESAs at all times, human life takes priority over animal life and our focus during emergencies will be entirely on the safety of students, faculty and staff.

In case of emergency situations requiring students to move to a refuge/shelter area on campus, students with ESAs agree to adhere to the following policy, which is strictly enforced.

ESAs are not permitted in refuge/shelter areas under any circumstances.

If the animal is in the residence hall room or rental unit without the student partner, the animal should already be in their crate or cage, which should provide reasonable shelter. The student partner should not return to their room or rental unit to check on the animal but should move immediately to the nearest designated shelter.

If the student partner is in their room when the emergency happens, they should quickly crate their animal before leaving the room to proceed to the shelter/refuge area. If possible, they could put the crate under their bed, cover it with a towel, or blanket to further protect the animal in the rare event of a window breaking.

If the student partner is outside walking their dog, they should move inside and put it in the nearest closed room available before proceeding to the shelter location, such as a lobby bathroom.

We regret that ESAs are not permitted shelter/refuge areas with humans for the following reasons:

There may be students with severe allergies to animals. Keeping them in confined spaces for prolonged periods creates the risk of serious allergic reactions.

If kept confined for prolonged periods (especially during inclement weather), animals may become agitated and/or aggressive. This could put people and other animals at risk of harm.

Animals are less likely to relieve themselves when they are crated. If allowed to shelter with their student partner, we may have to deal with animal waste.

In the absence of their ESA, student partners are encouraged to rely on friends and classmates to provide a reasonable level of emotional support until the emergency subsides, as they do while attending classes and going to the dining hall.

Unfortunately, we do not have enough shelter locations on campus to be able to have an animal-friendly one in addition to a human-exclusive one.

I acknowledge and agree to the information and stipulations contained in this document.

Please check the box, sign and date below.

Signature

Date