

Bethany College Emotional Support Animal Guidelines 2024/2025

As stated in the Bethany College Emotional Support Animal Policy, found in the Student Handbook, the College will consider requests for reasonable accommodation of emotional support animals for individuals with disabilities or needs that can be mitigated or improved upon with the presence of such animals. Emotional support animals (ESAs) are classified, according to the ADA national Network*, as companionship animals that assist individuals that may suffer from mental health concerns. Emotional support animals are not considered service animals as they do not help humans perform tasks or have the same training and discipline.

In regard to emotional support animals within campus housing, the College must consider the unique situation that residence hall living places its students; this includes the impact of emotional support animals on: other students, rooming assignments, administrative burden, fundamental alterations to housing, etc. Requests and determinations of accommodation will be addressed on a case by case basis in order to ensure that all students are allowed the best environment possible for learning.

In compliance with the ADA, the following procedures are in place to ensure the protection and comfort of students, with and without emotional support animals, and the animals living in the halls. If mistreatment or neglect is occurring to either the animal or Bethany College property, Bethany College has the right to have the animal removed from campus. If a residential student does not follow the policy, Bethany College has the right to remove the animal from campus immediately.

Annually Students with Emotional Support Animals Must:

1. Register their ESA with Student Affairs before the animal is brought to campus.
2. Pay a \$250 non-refundable damage deposit.
3. Share updated ESA vaccination paperwork with Student Affairs.
4. Keep their ESA in their room
 - a. ESAs are not allowed to be loose in lobbies or hallways.
 - b. ESAs are not allowed to be kept in other students' rooms.
5. Maintain the animal's health and well-being.
 - a. Students must keep animals up-to-date on all shots and proper grooming.
6. Pay for any damage to Bethany College property caused by their animal.
7. Clean up after their ESA inside and outside.
8. Keep their animal on a leash or in a cage when the animal is outside their room.
9. Take their ESA with them when leaving campus overnight.
10. Understand and accept that Bethany College may limit room assignments for individuals with ESAs to specific floors, houses, cubes, or wings in order to separate any animals from students with known allergies, and in consideration of all other factors herein.

Emotional Support Animals Must:

1. Be fully vaccinated against:
 - a. Dogs: parvovirus, canine hepatitis, rabies
 - b. Cats: feline distemper, feline calicivirus, feline herpesvirus type I, rabies
2. Be spayed or neutered

- a. Animals must be fixed to prevent behavior issues, pregnancy, and accidents.
2. Be house trained
3. Registered with the City of Lindsborg and comply with the city's dog breed restrictions
4. Must never display aggressive behavior towards people or other animals

Emotional Support Animal Registration at Bethany College Includes:

1. Signed Bethany College ESA Agreement
2. Up-to-date vaccination record and proof of spay or neuter for ESA
3. Letter from mental health professional or doctor
4. City of Lindsborg registration (if dog)

Students must have all of their paperwork completed and turned into the Student Affairs Office before an animal is brought to campus.

Requests for Emotional Support Animals May be Denied as Unreasonable if the Presence of the Animal:

1. Imposes an undue financial and/or administrative burden on the college;
2. Fundamentally alters college housing policies;
3. Poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others; and/or
4. Would cause substantial damage to the property of others, including that of the College.

Additional Factors that may be Considered in Determining Whether or Not Requests for Emotional Support Animals are Unreasonable:

1. The size of the animal is too large for the available assigned housing space;
2. The animal's presence would force another resident from individual housing (i.e. serious allergies or phobias);
3. The animal's presence otherwise violates the right of other individuals to peace and quiet in their living environment;
4. The animal is not housebroken or is unable to live with others in a reasonable manner;
5. The animal's vaccinations are not up-to-date;
6. The animal poses, or has posed in the past, a direct threat to others, including displays of aggressive behavior or the infliction of injury; and/or
7. The animal causes or has caused excessive damage to housing beyond reasonable wear and tear.

Please email Kerri Henne, Director of Residence Life, at hennekm@bethanylb.edu with questions.

*<https://adata.org/publication/service-animals-booklet>