

October 2, 2017

RE: SHC Policy on Providing Letters for Emotional Support Animals

Note: This policy does *not* apply to service animals

Background

An emotional support animal is a companion animal that provides therapeutic benefit to an individual with a mental or psychiatric disability. The animal is part of the treatment plan for a person who meets the definition of disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The animal would address specific functional limitations to allow the person to live independently.

Policy

Increasing numbers of students request letters from our providers for their pets. While we understand that a pet can be an important source of support during stressful times for many students, emotional support animals are not prescribed or specifically recommended by UWL UWL Student Health Center providers. Therefore, the providers at the UWL Student Health Center do *not* provide letters for emotional support animals. If a mental health professional outside of UWL has prescribed or recommended an emotional support animal, they may be willing to write a letter that will meet the requirements