



HEMHA PRESS RELEASE

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New College Mental Health Resource-Animals on Campus: Current Issues and Trends

The Higher Education Mental Health Alliance (HEMHA) is proud to release our most recent guide, ***Animals on campus: Current issues and trends***. Though service animals have been employed for decades, the presence of Emotional Support Animals (ESAs) and therapy animals on campuses has become much more common. This guide acknowledges the tensions that exist between accommodating students with legitimate needs for assistance animals, ambiguity in the laws related to each category of animal likely to be present on campus (service, ESA, and therapy animals), the need to balance campus health and safety, and recognizes that fraudulent ESA requests are a reality. Using an interdisciplinary approach, this guide provides educational information, definitions of terms about types of animals on campuses, and reviews the current issues and trends. The guide is intended to help mental health professionals and other healthcare practitioners, student affairs professionals, and campus administrators engage in discussions about medical, legal, and ethical aspects of this topic and develop appropriate policies and procedures on their campuses.

To access the guide please go to our website: <https://hemha.org/animals-on-campus-guide>