



Emotional Support Animal Agreement

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

SCSU ID: _____ Phone: _____

ESA Name: _____ Type & Breed: _____

This Agreement applies to any student residing in campus housing who is approved for an emotional support animal (“**ESA**”) by the Center for Academic Support and Accessibility Services (“**CASAS**”), unless (a) the nature of the student’s documented disability precludes adherence to this Agreement, and (b) CASAS has approved a variance from the terms and conditions of this Agreement, in which case, a copy of the signed variance will be attached to and made a part of this Agreement.

The student above must sign this Agreement and submit a completed **ESA Registration Form** to the Office of Residence Life (“**Residence Life**”) prior to bringing an ESA into any campus housing operated by Southern Connecticut State University (“**SCSU**”).

I understand, acknowledge and agree that approval of my ESA is conditioned up and subject to me complying with each of the following terms and conditions:

1. **Approval Period.** CASAS’s approval of my ESA is valid only for one academic year at a time (i.e., from the fall semester through the end of the spring semester). *Prior to bringing my ESA onto campus each academic year, I will meet with a CASAS accessibility services staff member to determine whether an ESA is still a reasonable, necessary and appropriate accommodation for me. I understand I may be asked to provide updated documentation from my provider to support the continuing need for an ESA as well as updated vaccination and license documentation. My ESA is not permitted on campus prior to the date specified by Residence Life. In addition, I will notify Residence Life in writing if my ESA is no longer residing on campus.*
2. **Replacement of ESA.** Approval of my ESA covers only the specific animal listed above and described on my ESA Registration Form. I understand if I need to replace my approved ESA for any reason, I first must meet with CASAS accessibility services staff to obtain approval and may have to submit updated ESA documentation in order to have a new animal approved as an ESA.
3. **ESA Behavior & Control.** I understand, acknowledge and agree that:
 - a. Dangerous, poisonous, and/or illegal ESAs are not permitted on campus. My ESA may not pose a threat to the health, safety, welfare or property of anyone on campus, and may not unreasonably disturb, annoy or cause nuisance to anyone on campus, or adversely affect any campus programming or activities. I will be sensitive with respect to those individuals with animal-related allergies or fears. I understand I am responsible for instructing others on appropriate interactions with my ESA and setting clear limits and expectations.
 - b. I am solely responsible for effectively controlling my ESA at all times. My ESA will be properly restrained and under my control at all times, and I will not permit my ESA to be loose at any time. If

my ESA becomes loose, it is subject to capture and confinement and immediate removal from SCSU housing.

- c. My ESA must be well-behaved and not engage in unreasonable or excessive barking, whining, scratching, chewing or aggression, and its behavior, noise, odor and waste must not exceed reasonable standards for a well-behaved ESA.
 - d. My ESA will wear an identification tag containing my name and contact information and, if applicable, vaccination and license tags at all times while on campus.
4. **ESA Approved Area.** My ESA will remain in my assigned bedroom in my residence hall at all times, except when I take it outside for natural relief or exercise or when I transport it off campus. I will not allow my ESA into any common areas (including, if applicable, within my assigned suite), lounges, bathrooms, kitchen areas or other SCSU facilities. When exiting my residence hall, my ESA will be on a leash or in a carrier, and I will use the most direct exit from my bedroom to limit my ESA's exposure to other residents, staff and visitors.
5. **ESA Care.** I understand, acknowledge and agree that:
- a. I am solely responsible for providing food, water, care and supervision for my ESA, and I may not designate such responsibility to anyone else while my ESA is on campus.
 - b. I understand my ESA must be clean and well-groomed at all times, and I will provide routine care for my ESA, including odor control, flea and tick prevention, de-worming, and annual examinations. I also understand that my ESA, its crate, cage, litter box and other materials may not be cleaned or bathed in SCSU bathrooms. I understand SCSU has the right to request updated veterinary care verification at any time during my ESA's residency.
 - c. I understand that ESAs must be housebroken before being allowed onto campus. ESAs that are not housebroken may not be eligible to serve as an ESA. If my ESA is a dog, I acknowledge that it is at least one year old. I am solely responsible for promptly and properly containing and disposing of all waste from my ESA in a safe and sanitary manner. When provided, my ESA must use relief areas designated by SCSU. Indoor ESA waste, such as cat litter, must be placed in a sturdy plastic bag and tied securely before being disposed of in outside trash receptacles. Litter boxes should be placed on mats so that feces and urine are not tracked onto carpeted surfaces. I must immediately retrieve outdoor ESA waste, such as dog feces, place it in a plastic bag, and securely tie it before disposing it in an outside trash dumpster, never in an indoor trash receptacle.
6. **Leaving ESA Unattended.** I have sole responsibility for my ESA at all times and may not leave my ESA in the care of anyone else. I must ensure my ESA is caged, crated or otherwise contained when I am not in my room while attending classes or other activities. I have carefully considered the degree to which my ESA may experience separation anxiety when I am out of the room. I will not be away from my ESA for any unreasonable length of time (which is determined, in part, by the species of my ESA). In no case will I leave my ESA on campus without me overnight or for any extended period of time (e.g., weekends, during breaks, etc.).
7. **Abuse or Neglect of ESA.** I understand any evidence of mistreatment, abuse, neglect of my ESA, or leaving my ESA unattended for unreasonably long periods, may result in immediate removal of my ESA and/or discipline pursuant to the SCSU Student Code of Conduct. If in cases of suspected abuse or neglect of my ESA, Residence Life will contact me and the SCSU Police Department.
8. **Vaccinations & Health.** I must abide by all laws, rules and regulations pertaining to vaccinations and animal care. I must obtain all required and veterinarian-recommended vaccinations for my ESA in order to

maintain its health and prevent contagious diseases. I will provide documentation showing current compliance with vaccination and other health requirements before my ESA arrives on campus and at any time upon request. If my ESA is a dog, it must wear a current rabies vaccination tag.

9. **Dog License.** If my ESA is a dog, it will be licensed either by the City of New Haven or the Town of Hamden (depending on the location of my residence hall) prior to being allowed on campus and it will wear a current dog license tag. My ESA's license must be kept current at all times, and I will provide a copy of the current dog license before my ESA arrives on campus and at any time upon request. My ESA dog will wear a current rabies vaccination tag.
10. **Spaying / Neutering / Pregnant ESAs.** I understand that SCSU strongly recommends ESAs be spayed or neutered as appropriate and that pregnant ESAs are not allowed in SCSU housing. In the event my ESA becomes pregnant, I will remove it from campus until its offspring are weaned.
11. **Emergencies.**
 - a. On my ESA Registration Form, I have designated someone located in the Greater New Haven area to serve as an emergency contact if I cannot be reached or am otherwise unavailable and action is needed to ensure the health and wellbeing of my ESA. I authorize that individual to pick up and transport my ESA to an off-campus location until I can reunite with it.
 - b. I understand that neither SCSU nor emergency response personnel are required to provide care, food or water for my ESA, including but not limited to removing my ESA during an emergency evacuation for events such as a fire alarm. Emergency personnel will determine whether to remove my ESA and may not be held responsible for the care, damage to, or loss of my ESA.
12. **Potentially Harmful Materials.** I understand and acknowledge that SCSU may use materials that are hazardous or potentially harmful to my ESA (e.g., pesticides, pest control devices, de-icing materials, cleaning supplies and other materials for the maintenance and operation of the university), and that SCSU is not responsible for any harm to my ESA caused by such material.
13. **Property Damage & Cleaning Costs.**
 - a. As with anyone living in campus housing, I understand SCSU may bill me for any damage beyond normal wear and tear or for necessary cleaning above and beyond the standard cleaning of the room or damage to furniture, carpet, window, or other SCSU-owned property.
 - b. I understand that I am financially responsible for the actions of my ESA including bodily injury or property damage, including but not limited to the cost of replacing furniture, carpets, drapes, and wall coverings. I will be expected to pay these costs upon repair and/or upon move-out of campus housing. SCSU shall have the right to bill my account for any unpaid obligations.
 - c. I understand my room and suite may be inspected at any time by Residence Life staff for fleas or other pests once per semester or as needed. If any fleas, ticks or other pests are detected through inspection, the residence will be treated using an approved fumigation methods by a SCSU-approved pest control service. I understand I will be billed for the expense of any pest treatment above and beyond normal required pest management.
14. **Disclosure of ESA Information.** By signing this Agreement, I am consenting to Residence Life and/or CASAS staff disclosing to others impacted by the presence of my ESA (e.g., staff, potential and/or actual roommates and neighbors) that I will be living with an ESA as an accommodation. I understand this information will be shared with the intent of preparing for the presence of my ESA and/or resolving any potential issues associated with its presence and will not include information related to my disability. I

further recognize the presence of my ESA may be noticed by others visiting or residing in campus housing and agree that Residence Life and CASAS staff may acknowledge the presence of my ESA and explain that under certain circumstances ESAs are permitted for persons with disabilities.

15. **Compliance with Residence Life Policies.** I agree to abide by all Residence Life policies, rules and regulations. An exception to a policy, rule or regulation that otherwise prohibits having an ESA does not constitute an exception to any other Residence Life or SCSU policy, rule or regulation.
16. **Indemnification and Hold Harmless.** I agree to indemnify and hold harmless SCSU from any liability, injury, or property damage resulting from the presence or actions of my ESA during the time it is on campus.
17. **Removal of ESA.** I understand, acknowledge and agree that SCSU may require me to remove my ESA from campus at any time if:
 - a. My ESA poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others or causes substantial property damage to the property of others, including property of SCSU,
 - b. My ESA or its presence creates an unmanageable disturbance or interference with the SCSU community.
 - c. My ESA's presence results in a fundamental alteration of a university program, or
 - d. My failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions in this Agreement.

SCSU will consider the behavior of my ESA and base a decision on speculation or fear about the harm or damages an animal of the same breed as my ESA may cause.

Should my ESA be removed from campus for any reason, I am expected to fulfill my housing obligation for the remainder of the housing contract.

18. **Violations.** I understand, acknowledge and agree that my failure to comply with the terms and conditions of this Agreement may not only result in the removal of my ESA from campus but also may constitute a violation of the SCSU Student Code of Conduct.
19. **Revisions to Agreement.** I understand and agree that SCSU may revise the terms and conditions in this Agreement at any time, in which case it will provide written notice of such revisions to me.

I verify I have read, understand and will comply with all terms and conditions in this Agreement.

Student Signature

Date