



ASSISTANCE ANIMALS: WILL THEY BE MOVING IN?

Service animals and emotional support animals are appearing with greater frequency on college campuses as students arrive with them in tow. These animals raise issues, particularly for residential communities, and fraternities and sororities are no exception.

We recommend that organizations review the possibility of accommodating an emotional support animal under the following circumstances:

- The host institution has a written policy of allowing service or emotional support animals within their dorms, classrooms and other campus buildings and;
- A medical professional or psychiatrist/psychologist or therapist letter is received making a medical recommendation for the service or emotional support animal, and;
- The chapter facility can accommodate a single member room and the member in need of the service or emotional support animal is prepared to pay an additional room cost, and;
- No other resident chapter member is adversely impacted by the service or emotional support animal being on site (e.g. allergic reaction).

A well-considered response should be developed before the issue arises for your organization, and attention should be given to local and state guidelines.

From an insurance standpoint, your General Liability policy would respond should the animal bite someone or cause some sort of bodily injury to a member, guests, invitee, etc. The property policy would likely exclude coverage for any type of property damage caused by the animal.