**Department of Residential Life and Housing- Animals in Residence Statement**

The Department of Residential Life and Housing at The College of Saint Benedict is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. This includes accommodations that support and facilitate a student’s full-participation and equal access to the college’s programs and activities, as well as to afford students with disabilities an equal opportunity to use and enjoy campus housing.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has established the need for housing providers to consider “Emotional Support Animals” (or ESAs), as an appropriate accommodation within one’s place of residence under the Fair Housing Act (FHA). CSB has a formal process, by which we work with students to determine ESA eligibility. We are available to help students work through the process of requesting an ESA. Be advised that an ESA may not reside on campus prior to completing the registration process or approval process.

The College of Saint Benedict (CSB or College) recognizes the importance of **“Service Animals”** as defined by the [Americans with Disability Act Amendments Act (ADAAA)](http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm). Service animals are welcome in all public locations.

Although CSB students are generally prohibited from having animals other than fish in campus housing, CSB will work with students that have a disability to host service animals. We ask that students with Service Animals work with our office in advance of their arrival to ensure appropriate accommodations are in place.

**Definitions**

**Disability:** defined as a physical or mental impairment which substantially impacts one or more major life activities. These functions may include: caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, working, and learning.

**Service Animal**1**:** Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person’s disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

**Emotional Support Animal2:** An “emotional support animal” (“ESA”) is an animal that provides comfort to an individual with a disability upon the recommendation of a healthcare or mental health professional. An emotional support animal does not assist a person with a disability with activities of daily living but rather its role is to live with a student and alleviate the symptoms of an individual’s disability to provide equal opportunities to use and enjoy their dwelling unit on campus. Once an ESA leaves the owner’s dwelling unit, it becomes a “pet,” and ceases to be protected by federal law. Emotional Support Animals are not service animals.

**Housebroken:** trained so that, absent illness or accident, the animal controls its waste elimination.

**Pet:** A pet is an animal kept for ordinary use and companionship unrelated to a disability. A pet is not considered a service animal or an emotional support animal. Aside from fish3, students are not allowed to have pets on College property.

**Handler:** The “Handler” is the individual who has requested the accommodation and has received approval to bring a service animal into campus housing.

**Owner:** The “Owner” is the individual who has requested the accommodation and has received approval to bring an ESA into campus housing.