Updates to USCB ESA Policy and Procedures

Due to COVID-19 developments, the University of South Carolina Beaufort reserves the right to change ESA policies and procedures without notice. Students are expected to maintain appropriate social distancing for their ESAs, including asking others not to pet or hold the animal, as current evidence suggests that dogs and cats can become positive for COVID-19 or carry droplets in their fur from one person to another. The risk to animals appears to be very low, but we encourage ESA owners to protect themselves, their animals, and their peers. Current advice from the CDC and the American Veterinary Medical Association suggests that individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 limit contact with their own pets (cats and dogs) and whenever possible, have others provide their care.

We recommend that you maintain 2-3 weeks of food/supplies in your room since the supply chain may be disrupted or you may need to quarantine/isolate.

If an ESA owner must be quarantined/isolated and plans to remain on campus, the University reserves the right to ask that the student make immediate arrangements for the care of the animal off-campus. We strongly encourage all ESA owners to identify someone off campus that will take care of their ESA in the event the student being quarantined/isolated on campus is unable to care for the animal.

However, if you take your ESA with you to quarantine/isolation, you may leave the quarantine/isolation apartment only to walk your ESA dog and must maintain social distancing, wear a face mask, and remain out only for the amount of time required to walk the animal.

If you choose to quarantine/isolate at home, your ESA must leave too.

USCB employees cannot provide care for your animal.