Addendum for Students Requesting ESA Accommodation

Students who are requesting an Emotional Support Animal as an accommodation for a disability should note the following:

- Your documentation should strive to meet the criteria described in the attachment “Documentation Guidelines for Mental Health Disabilities”.
- In your documentation, your healthcare provider must make a link between your functional limitations (how you are impacted by your condition) and the way an emotional support animal will help to alleviate these symptoms.
- The healthcare provider should not simply state: “In my professional opinion, due to student’s condition, he/she needs a comfort/emotional support animal”, or only refer to research rather than your specific situation. (See below for example of acceptable language.)
- You should be familiar with the Gonzaga University Support Animal Policy, and be able to agree to all conditions in this policy, including adhering to timelines.

Example language for your doctor/health care practitioner to include in your documentation:

Student has been diagnosed with condition X. Condition X causes him/her to have the following symptoms: [A, B, C]

We have found that having an emotional support animal of [type] (such as cat, dog, rabbit, etc.) in Student’s living area reduces or alleviates those symptoms in the following ways: [A, B, C]

Therefore, I am recommending that Student be allowed an emotional support cat/dog/etc. for her/his condition.