Skidmore College
Therapy Animal Policy
Therapy Animals
Therapy animals mean any animal that provides comfort or alleviates one or more symptoms or effects
of a disabling condition for a person with a qualified disability. Examples include but are not limited to
lessening depression for those with depressive disorders, improve attention for those with Attention
Deficit disorder, increase socialization and attention span for those with Autism or Asperger's.
Qualifications and Process As a reasonable accommodation a student with a disability may request to have a therapy animal in a
Skidmore residence hall or apartment and/or classrooms. If there is no one who will room with the
student and the assistance animal, the student may be liable for the cost of a single. Only animals that
do not pose a direct threat to the health and safety of others, would not cause substantial physical
damage to College property or the property of others, or do not fundamentally alter housing operations

 The request will be reviewed by a committee that is composed of representatives from
Residential Life, the Counseling and Health Services, and Student Academic Services.
Responsibilities of the Handler
Anytime a therapy animal is outside of a residential dwelling the animal must be harnessed, leashed,
tethered or otherwise under physical control of the handler.
In all cases, the handler must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective
controls.
The expense and responsibility to feed, provide health care, and necessary bathing and grooming of
service animals is the sole responsibility of the handler. Service animals must be in compliance with
local licensing laws.
The handler is responsible for removing or arranging for removal of animal waste.
Violations of this policy will be referred to the Integrity Board.