

CAMPUS NEWS

How Campus Pets are Labeled

By **Xhaxany Cuellar**
Assistant Editor

UMHB has a population of about 50 emotional support animals (ESAs) and service animals. The population fluctuates on campus, however nationwide they are increasing in popularity. Both service animals and ESAs serve a key purpose in their owners lives, but there are key differences.

Service animals are trained to complete specific tasks to support a person with a disability. Service animals are protected under the American Disabilities Act (ADA) and require state and local governments, public accommodations and commercial facilities to allow service animals to accom-

pany individuals with disability in all areas of the general public. Service animals usually undergo extensive training before becoming a working animal.

Emotional support animals provide companionship to a person with emotional or psychological disabilities. These animals typically do not require training and do not have access to all businesses and public places; instead they are limited to accompanying their owner in their homes.

In order to acquire an ESA or service animal on campus, the university needs a note from a physician or licensed counselor stating that the individual has a physical or mental disability, the animal is necessary to afford the person with a disability

an equal access to the university educational program and there is an identifiable nexus between the disability and assistance the animal provides.

The university may exclude a service animal or support animal from campus if it poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others, causes substantial physical damage to the property of others and poses an undue financial and administrative burden or results in a fundamental alteration of the universities program according to the student handbook.

These are the only "pets" that are allowed on campus. Any unregistered animals found within school property can land students a daily fine of \$150 until they are removed.



Photo by Allyson Hinkle/TheBells
Junior business computer information science major Montoya sits with her Emotional Support Animal Pumpkin. Montoya got Pumpkin registered with the university during her sophomore year at UMHB for mental health purposes.

Fashion Column: How to Dress Appropriately for Winter Weather

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way. The main thing to remember for this layer is that it's purpose is not to keep you warm, but to keep you dry. It does not need to be super thick. That will come later.

Insulation Layer

Next up is the insulation layer. Unlike your base layer this one is intended to retain your body heat and keep you warm. This is typically looser fitting and made from materials such as polyester fleece, down feathers, wool or wool-blends. This could include that insanely thick sweater we were talking about earlier or that puffer vest you bought last winter because it was trending on Pinterest. Depending on how thick your insulating layer is you may need to add an extra layer on top. This could mean the sweater and the vest or a hoodie and a flannel. Pick your poison; just make sure it's able to retain your body heat.

Shell Layer

Lastly we have our shell layer. This layer is designed to keep your body heat in and keep all the rain, snow and wind out. Unless you're out climbing mountains or

exploring Antarctica this layer can consist simply of some sort of wind breaker. Ideally you want it to be loose fitting, wind resistant and waterproof. Shell layer jackets can get pretty expensive so don't worry about buying a super thick one if you don't already have it. Just make sure if you're going to stick to a thinner one that your insulating layer is thick enough to make up for it. The most important thing to remember for your shell layer is that it needs to be waterproof. You cannot use any sort of cotton blend for this because if you get wet you will not be able to remain warm.

Bottom Half

For your bottom half, you can never go wrong with a good pair of jeans. Not the ones with holes in them; the ones you could wear to family Christmas without any snide comments from your Grandpa. If you think it's necessary you can layer up down there too. Leggings or long underwear under your jeans or sweatpants is a great way to create a simple base layer for your lower extremities. The same rules apply. Try to keep that layer thin and tight. Spandex or polyes-

ter would be ideal. If you are going to wear leggings make sure you have something over them. Your Lululemon attire will make a great base layer, but it is definitely not where you should stop. Make sure you have sweatpants or jeans of some sort on top.

Accessories

And now we move on to the "accessories" portion of our wardrobe. At the top of your body is your head so we will start there first. Everyone needs a good beanie in their collection. Ideally, you want one with acrylic, synthetic fibers or wool to maximize warmth. You also want to make sure your beanie is covering your ears because the ears tend to get cold the easiest and are extremely vulnerable to frostbite because of how small they are. Scarves are another thing you need. They are a great way to keep your neck and ears warm and as expected thicker is better. I know you are dying to debut that scarf you hand crocheted over the summer, but in terms of a snowpocalypse that velvet yarn is just not going to cut it. Same thing goes for gloves and mittens. Avoid cotton like it

is the plague. Try to find waterproof and/or windproof options. Fingerless gloves may make you feel cute and fashionable, but for practicality reasons you're going to want something more durable.

Shoes

For shoes, I'm sorry guys but those Crocs you've been wearing since the seventh grade are just not going to cut it. Same goes for the checkered vans you bought in 2019. Dryness is key!! Doc Martins or Air Forces can get the job done 90% of the time, but if you plan on doing more than walking to and from class you are going to need some snow/rain boots with at least 75% waterproofness.

At the end of the day, staying warm can also be a challenge. Just remember to stay dry. And to stay dry you need to think he/she/it is not fooling and can handle the weather. Not fooling is not that deep. Remember, you live in Texas. There is no telling what could happen tomorrow, as winter never lasts very long here. Enjoy it while you can, and stay warm while you do it!

Stages of grief finals

Denial
Eh, plenty of time left

Anger
Why are there so many assignments?!

Bargaining
I can finish everything if I skip some stuff, right?

Depression
I can't finish all of this work...

Acceptance
Whatever.

Commentary: Can College Students Pass a Mandated Citizenship Test?

By **Xhaxany Cuellar**
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The United States currently has the easiest citizenship test compared to other Western countries. In the U.S. test, applicants must answer six out of the 10 questions correctly to pass. With that being said, can the average UMHB student pass a citizenship test?

We surveyed 35 students to see if they could pass a 10-question written paper test that catered to their knowledge of history and government. Out of 35 students, only nine passed, with four students scoring 90%, one scoring 80%, two scoring 70% and two scoring 60%. Twenty-three students scored below 40% with three

students unable to answer any of the questions provided.

The most commonly missed questions were, "How many U.S. senators are there?" and "The House of Representatives has



Photo by Allyson Hinkle/TheBells
A statue of Peter H. Bell, the third governor of Texas, stands proud outside of the Belton Courthouse.

how many voting members?"

So what does this tell us? Has the U.S. educational system failed to provide its citizens with the knowledge of our own country? Or

have students simply forgotten all the history they were taught in the last five years?

Another question raised is should the U.S. naturalization test be easier for immigrants to take if the average

college student can not pass it? In 2023, an article by ABC News reported concerns about the new changes to the 2023 U.S. citizenship test for people with low English skills.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration proposed the new test adds a speaking section to assess English skills. Another proposed change would make the civics section on U.S. history and government multiple choice.

These questions underscore the need for a critical examination of civic education in the United States and a reevaluation of the citizenship test. It is essential to ensure that all individuals possess a fundamental understanding of the nation's history and government. The results of our survey should serve as a catalyst for discussions on improving civic education and creating a more inclusive and effective naturalization process for immigrants.