



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

5500 Armstrong Road  
Battle Creek, MI 49037  
www.battlecreek.va.gov

In Reply Refer To: 515/116MHC

June 2, 2025

Dear Edgewater Country Village,

Veteran Travis J. Vandenberg is my patient, and has been under my professional care since 04/04/2024 involving the provision of mental health treatment. As such I am familiar with his psychiatric history and disability-related functional limitations. He has a mental impairment that substantially limits at least one major life activity as defined by the Fair Housing Act. To enhance his ability to live independently and to have full use and enjoyment of his dwelling, Travis needs support ducks that will assist him with the functional limitations associated with his disability.

Travis already cares for four (4) support ducks. In my clinical opinion, his ducks are: 1) necessary to prevent or interrupt impulsive or destructive behaviors; 2) able to alleviate symptoms consistent with post-traumatic stress; and, 3) provide emotional support that significantly reduces identified symptoms and distress secondary to at least one diagnosable mental disorder (utilizing DSM-5-TR diagnostic criteria). Support ducks, in particular, are necessary as Travis has a history of adverse encounters with traditional domesticated animals, including cats and dogs. Moreover, he has a long, passionate history with waterfowl, resulting in ducks being his animal of choice.

In compliance with HIPAA privacy regulations, I am available to answer questions you may have concerning my verification of Travis' request.

Sincerely,

**ALEXANDER  
BUTTERFIELD**

Alexander Butterfield, LMSW  
Clinical Social Worker & Psychotherapist  
Psychiatry Service 116MHC  
Battle Creek VA Medical Center  
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Digitally signed by ALEXANDER  
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Date: 2025.06.02 16:33:03 -04'00