Service Animals on Campus

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), service dogs are permitted in college facilities.

Service dogs are trained to assist people with disabilities in the activities of daily living. The (ADA) definition of service animals is:

"... any animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals who are hearing impaired to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items."

Department of Justice Regulations of 2010 have further narrowed the definition of "service animals" to read "service dogs." (In some limited circumstances, miniature horses are permitted the designation of "service animal.")

To work on campus, a service dog must be specifically trained to perform a service function. If a dog meets this definition, it is considered a service dog regardless of whether it has been licensed or certified by a state or local government or a training program. Service dogs whose behavior poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others or are disruptive to the campus community may be excluded regardless of training or certification.

The guidelines (below) have been developed with the understanding that most service animals working on the college campus will be dogs. If another kind of animal is to be employed as a service animal on campus, the partner (person with a disability) should contact the Disability Support Services office at 206.726.5098 as soon as possible to explore any additional health or safety concerns.

Please see the 2010 Revised ADA Requirements for more information regarding Service Animals.

A. Definitions
   a. Owner/Handler: A person with a service animal.
   b. Service Dog: Any dog individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability.
      i. Guide Dog is a carefully trained dog that serves as a travel tool to persons with severe visual impairments or who are blind.
      ii. Hearing Dog is a dog that has been trained to alert a person with significant hearing loss or who is deaf when a sound, e.g., knock on the door, occurs
      iii. Service/Support Dog is a dog that has been trained to assist a person who has a mobility or health impairment. Types of duties the dog may perform include carrying, fetching, opening doors, ringing doorbells, activating elevator buttons, steadying a person while walking, helping a person up after a fall, etc.
      iv. Sig Dog is a dog trained to assist a person with autism. The dog alerts the partner to distracting repetitive movements common among those with autism, allowing the person to stop the movement (e.g., hand flapping.) A person with autism may have problems with sensory input and need the same support services from a dog that might be given to a person who is deaf or blind.
      v. Seizure Response Dog is a dog trained to assist a person with a seizure disorder; how the dog serves the person depends on the person's needs. The dog may stand guard over the person during a seizure, or may go for help. A few dogs have learned to sense and predict a seizure and warn the partner in advance.

B. Requirements of Service Dogs and Their Owners/Handlers
   a. Care and Supervision: The care and supervision of a service dog is solely the responsibility of its owner/handler. This includes care, feeding and waste disposal for the service dog. The owner/handler must be in full control of the dog at all times.
   b. Licensing and Tags: Service dogs must be licensed and immunized according to local ordinances. Samples of these ordinances follow: "Dogs four months old or older shall be vaccinated against rabies;"
"all license tags issued shall be securely fastened to a collar or other like harness which shall be worn by
the animal at all times when off the premises of the licensed owner."

C. Responsibilities for Faculty, Staff, and Students
   a. Allow a service dog to accompany the owner/handler on campus, except where service animals are
      specifically prohibited.
   b. Do not feed, pet, or deliberately startle a service dog.
   c. Do not separate or attempt to separate a handler from his or her dog.

D. An Owner/Handler May Be Asked to Remove an Animal because of:
   a. Disruption: An owner/handler may be asked to remove a dog that is unruly or disruptive from college
      facilities. If the improper behavior occurs repeatedly, the owner/handler may be told not to bring the
dog into any college facility until the owner/handler has taken significant steps to mitigate the behavior.
   b. Ill Health: Service dogs that are ill should not be taken into public areas. An owner/handler with an ill
      animal may be asked to leave college facilities.

Comfort/Therapy Animals in Campus Housing
Comfort/therapy animals are only allowed in campus housing with the express written approval of Housing and
Residence Life. (These requests are covered under the Fair Housing Act rather than the ADA.)

Requests will be processed as follows:
   1. The resident (or prospective resident) should provide the Student Affairs Program Coordinator with the
      appropriate documentation at least 30 days before housing will be needed for the comfort animal so the
      documentation can be reviewed.
   2. The Program Coordinator will review the documentation submitted and request anything additional necessary
      to fully evaluate the request.
   3. The Program Coordinator will make a recommendation to the Director of Housing and Residence Life related to
      the request for a comfort / therapy animal.
   4. The Director of Housing and Residence Life will make a final decision regarding the request and will notify the
      resident in writing via email of this decision.

Generally, a final decision may be made within 10 working days of receipt of all necessary and requested
documentation.

Student Affairs Program Coordinator                     Director of Housing and Residence Life
Cheryl Coatney                                        John Paul
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A person who has a service or comfort animal on campus (including campus housing) is financially responsible for any
and all property damage caused by the animal.