

Student Accessibility Services Service Animal Policy and Procedure

General Policy

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines service animals as “dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.” Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets. If an animal meets this definition, it is considered a service animal regardless of whether it has been licensed or certified by a state or local government or a training program.

The ADA allows service animals accompanying persons with disabilities to be on the Clark University campus. A service animal must be permitted to accompany a person with a disability everywhere on campus except in situations where safety may be compromised or where the service animal may interfere with the fundamental nature of the activities being conducted.

The person a service animal assists is referred to as a partner. The partner’s disability may not be visible. If you are not sure whether an animal is a pet or a service animal. If you have questions as to the appropriateness of an animal you see on campus, please contact Student Accessibility Services or University Police. A service dog can be any breed or size. It might wear specialized equipment such as a backpack, harness, or special collar or leash, but this is not a legal requirement.

Service animals are allowed to accompany the partner at all times and everywhere on campus, except where service animals are specifically prohibited. This includes the right to bring the service animal into food service locations.

In case of an emergency, every effort will be made to keep the animal with its partner.

Requirements of Service Animals and their Partners:

- The animal cannot pose a direct threat to the health and safety of persons on the college campus. If the animal acts in a way that a reasonable person can interpret as aggressive or disruptive, the animal can be removed from campus.
- Local ordinances regarding animals apply to service animals, including requirements for immunization, licensing, noise, restraint, and at-large animals. Dogs must wear a license tag and a current rabies vaccination tag.

- The animal must be well-groomed and cared for.
- The partner must be in full control of the animal at all times. Service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the individual's disability prevents using these devices. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.
- The partner is responsible for cleaning up the animal's feces. The partner should always carry equipment and bags sufficient to clean up and properly dispose of the animal's feces. Partners who are not physically able to pick up and dispose of feces are responsible for making all necessary arrangements for assistance. Clark University is not responsible for these services.
- In keeping with appropriate university policies and procedures, the partner may be charged for damage caused by the partner or the service animal.
- As much as possible, the partner should ensure that the service animal does not approach and sniff other individuals, dining tables, or the personal belongings of others.
- The partner must assure that the service animal does not block identified fire/emergency exits.
- The partner must assure that the service animal does not display behaviors or noises that are deemed disruptive to others, unless said noise/behaviors are part of the needed disability service to the partner.

Procedure

- A student with a disability planning to have a service animal on campus and in campus housing is encouraged to register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). To do so they should submit disability documentation to SAS and then request an intake meeting.
- For residential students, the student is encouraged to provide the following to SAS:
 - Documentation that the dog is licensed in accordance with local regulations, has all appropriate vaccinations, is in good health, and has received an annual clean bill of health from a licensed veterinarian.

Any questions regarding the Service Animal Policy and Procedure should be directed to Adam Kosakowski, Director, at 508-798-4368 (voice), or via e-mail at akosakowski@clarku.edu. You can email documentation or send it via fax at 508-421-3700.