OFFICE OF ACCESSIBILITY
THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON
SERVICE ANIMAL GUIDELINES

DEFINITION

- In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), the Office of Accessibility at The University of Akron engages in an interactive and collaborative process with students in order to determine eligibility for reasonable accommodations, including the use of a service animal. Effective March 15, 2011,

“Service animal means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the handler’s disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to:

- assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks
- alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds
- providing non-violent protection or rescue work
- pulling a wheelchair
- assisting an individual during a seizure
- alerting individuals to the presence of allergens
- retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone
- providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities
- helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors.

The crime deterrent effects of an animal’s presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.”

INQUIRIES

- Federal law does not require the owner to provide documentation that the animal has been certified, trained or licensed as a service animal. The University may, however, ask if the animal is required because of a disability, as well as what work or task the animal has been trained to perform. If the University normally charges individuals for damages caused by a pet, an individual with a disability may also be charged for damage caused by the service animal.

- Please feel free to contact The Office of Accessibility or the ADA Coordinator regarding these guidelines.

Last updated 04/06/2017
RESPONSIBILITIES OF OWNER

- Registering with the Office of Accessibility is recommended for the best interest of the student and the service animal.

- The University of Akron recommends keeping identification on the service animal, such as a harness, for the safety of the service animal and others.

- The University is not responsible for the care (including feeding and toileting) or supervision of a service animal. A service animal shall be under control of its handler. A service animal shall have a harness, leash or other tether, unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash or other tether would interfere with the service animal’s safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler’s control (e.g., voice control, signals or other effective means).

- Individuals with disabilities are permitted to be accompanied by their service animals where members of the public, participants in services, programs or activities, or invitees, as relevant, are allowed to go. An individual with a disability may be asked to remove a service animal from the University if the animal is out of control and the animal’s handler does not take effective action to control it, or the animal is not housebroken. If necessary, University of Akron Police will provide assistance in the removal of the animal.

- If the service animal is properly excluded, the individual with a disability has the opportunity to participate in the service, program or activity without having the service animal on the premises.

RESIDENCE HALLS

- If a student desires that a service or assistance animal live in campus housing, the student must notify the Office of Accessibility at the time the housing contract is submitted so that the University can best accommodate the student and the animal. At that time, a meeting will be arranged between the student and the Office of Residence Life and Housing to discuss how to best accommodate the student, the service or assistance animal, and the campus community.

- Students with service animals are not automatically assigned to a private room. Students with service animals will be matched with potential roommates to whom contact has been made to prevent possible incompatibilities such as allergies or other concerns. If a private room is requested and approved, the standard private room rate will apply.

- A specific exercise location and relief area for the service animal will be established near the assigned residence hall. In addition, any damages caused by a service animal (e.g., room furnishings, roommate belongings, common area, etc.) will be the responsibility of the owner contracted for University housing.

- It is the student’s responsibility to dispose of the service animal’s waste in the proper external receptacle. If the disability prohibits the individual from picking up waste, they should find someone to assist with the disposal of waste.
OUT OF CLASSROOM EXPERIENCES

- There may be instances in internship/co-op/clinical experiences when the service animal may not be permitted to accompany the student. Though service animals can accompany their handler almost anywhere the handler goes, they may be excluded from areas where their presence would constitute a fundamental alteration, an undue burden, or a direct threat to safety.

- Examples of settings where service animals may be excluded include (but are not limited to): sterile environments (such as operating rooms, some ICU rooms, some delivery rooms), clean rooms where microchips are manufactured, places where food is prepared, and open air zoological exhibits.

- If the service animal is properly excluded, the individual with a disability has the opportunity to participate in the service, program or activity without having the service animal on the premises.

- Students are encouraged to contact the on-campus and on-site coordinator for the out of classroom experience to discuss any limitations the service animal may have on site.

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

- To help ensure appropriate response, these guidelines are being disseminated to The University Police and Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety Department.

- In the event of emergency evacuations it is recommended for the owner to have a kennel or crate and a disaster kit including food and water for the service animal.

- During a disaster, service animals will accompany their owners to the designated safe area.

GRIEVANCE

- The University of Akron has the sole discretion on safety matters related to service animals.

- The Office of Accessibility and the ADA Coordinator are charged with investigating complaints of discrimination or harassment, including complaints regarding implementation of these guidelines. They place a strong emphasis on resolving complaints informally in a fair, prompt, and confidential manner. If the issue is not resolved, then formal procedures are available. For more information or to make a complaint, contact:

  - Office of Accessibility
    Simmons Hall 105
    Akron, Ohio 44325-6213
    Phone: (330) 972-7928
    TTY: (330) 972-5764
    Email: access@uakron.edu
    http://www.uakron.edu/access/

  - Human Resources ADA Coordinator
    Administrative Services Building
    185 East Mill St
    Akron, Ohio 44325-4731
    Phone: 330-972-6716
    Fax: 330-972-2336
    Email: mas49@uakron.edu
    http://www.uakron.edu/hr/hr-services/ada/index.dot

These guidelines were derived from the American with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-325), which became effective January 1, 2009.

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