

Service Animals on Campus - Guidelines and Procedures

Introduction

The following information is provided to help define the role and the place of animals relative to facilities, employment, and residence halls at Cal Poly in promoting disability access.

- Service Animals on University Premises
- Assistance Animals in University Housing and Employment
- Individuals Denied Access
- Employees Questioning Whether an Animal Qualifies as a Service Animal
- Related Law, Regulations or Codes of Practice
- Implementation and Revision History

Service Animals on University Premises

Disabled individuals may be accompanied by their service animals on all Cal Poly premises where members of the public or participants in services, programs or activities are allowed to go. A 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. 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. In rare circumstances, a miniature horse may serve as a service animal.

Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals.

The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's impairment. Examples of such tasks include, but are not limited to: assisting an individual with low vision with navigation; alerting individuals who are hard of hearing to the presence of people or objects; pulling a person's wheelchair; or providing assistance with stability or balance to an individual with mobility impairment.

Federal law does not require the individual to provide documentation that an animal has been trained as a service animal. The University may, however, ask two questions:

1. Is the animal required because of a disability?
2. What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?

A person licensed to train guide dogs for individuals who are blind or visually impaired; signal dogs for individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired; or service dogs for individuals with a disability may take said dogs into the same university premises defined above for the purpose of training them as guide dogs, signal dogs, or service dogs. However, such dogs must be leashed and tagged in

accordance with applicable state or federal laws, and the person shall be liable for any provable damage done to the premises or facilities by his or her dog.

Exclusions of service dogs are determined on an individualized basis and when one of the following conditions exists:

- The dog is disruptive and not effectively controlled;
- The presence of the service dog would fundamentally change the nature of the job, service, or activity;
- The service dog's presence, behavior, or actions pose an unreasonable or direct threat to property and/or the health or safety of others;
- The dog is not housebroken.

When circumstances arise which would justify evaluating the presence of a service dog, the Disability Resource Center and/or Equal Opportunity will use the following criteria:

- The student/employee using the service dog has a disability and the dog is trained to perform certain tasks related to the individual's impairment; or
- The dog is a licensed assistance dog-in-training.

The University is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service dog. Individuals are responsible for:

- The well-being of a service dog as well as the cost of any damages as a result of the service dog;
- The immediate clean-up and proper disposal of all animal waste;
- The control of the animal at all times. Reasonable behavior is expected from service dogs. If a service dog, for example, exhibits unacceptable behavior, the individual is expected to employ the proper training techniques to correct the situation;
- Harnessing, leashing, or tethering the service dog, unless an individual's disability precludes the use of a restraint or if the restraint would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks;
- Following all requirements for the presence of animals in public places mandated by State or local ordinances (vaccination, licensure, animal health, leash).

Under California law, it is a misdemeanor to knowingly and fraudulently represent oneself as the owner or trainer of a dog licensed as a guide, signal or service dog.

We at KCCD do not have resident housing therefore, we do not accommodate Assistance Animals or Comfort Animals. These are two different categories that only apply to residence halls and housing discrimination issues.