



Information about Service Animals and the ADA

Recent Changes

Over the past few years, the rules regarding service animals have changed significantly. The most basic change is that a service animal can only be a trained dog (of any breed) or a trained miniature horse. No other animal can be used as a service animal under the American's with Disability Act (ADA) as defined by the Department of Justice (DOJ). *Comfort animals, emotional support and therapy animals are not service animals.* Non-service animals are not permitted on campus, except housing with Residential permission.

We are only allowed to ask a few questions regarding the animal. The two primary questions that can be asked, *if the handler's disability is not obvious*, are:

- Is your dog (or mini horse) required because of a disability?
- What work or task has the dog (or mini horse) been trained to perform?

Staff cannot request proof of the animal's certification or training. However, we are allowed to ask the handler for proof of the dog's county animal licensure and vaccinations as part of campus safety. Service animals are not required to wear any identifiable vests, halters or tags other than their county animal license tag. Dogs should, for the most part, be tethered by leash or harness to the handler unless this would hinder the animal's ability to perform the task. Staff cannot ask the handler to have the animal demonstrate the task the animal is trained to perform.

Reasons for Exclusion

Basic common courtesy is expected from the handler and the service animal within the public. Service animals should be house broken, well socialized and non-aggressive, never jump up on furniture or people, should not cause any form of extended disruption to the campus environment, nor should the animal cause a safety hazard to others. Any of these types of events can be cause for the removal of the animal. In the event a student with a severe allergy to an animal is in the room at the time, prior to a service animal arrives, the handler of the animal should be asked to leave until the individual with the allergy has left the area. Handlers are encouraged to contact Warner Pacific College's Disabilities Resources to ensure appropriate accommodations are made for the student when bringing a service animal into a classroom. Additionally, if the animal causes damage to the floor or furniture, the campus has the right to bill the handler for the cleanup, repair and/or replacement of damaged campus property.

Jann McCaul, M.Ed.
Disabilities Resource Coordinator
Warner Pacific College

Smith Hall, Room 208
503.517.1577
jmccaul@warnerpacific.edu