



# SERVICE ANIMALS

## A SERVICE ANIMAL IS:

- An animal individually trained to perform work or tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability.
- A right, not an accommodation. Having a service animal does not require approval from the Office of Disability Resources.
- Allowed to enter most public areas, with limited exceptions.
- A dog or a miniature horse.

## ONLY TWO QUESTIONS ARE PERMITTED BY LAW:

- Is the animal a service animal required because of a disability?
- What work or tasks has the animal been trained to perform?

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## **THINGS TO KNOW:**

- Not every disability is visible.
- There is no universally recognized certification for service animals or trainers.
- The handler, trainer, or user of the service animal is responsible for its care and supervision, including toileting, feeding, grooming, and veterinary care.
- Service animals may be trained by professional trainers, organizations, or the handlers themselves.
- Animals in training are not afforded the same rights as service animals.
- A service animal is not required to wear a vest, ID tag, or specific harness, according to federal law.

## **WHAT CAN I EXPECT OF THE STUDENT AND THE DOG?**

- The animal is obedient, and the owner respects property and space.
- The animal is controlled or leashed.
- The animal is well-groomed and odor-free.
- The handler or user of the animal immediately cleans up waste.

## **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF THE DOG AND OWNER ARE NOT BEHAVING?**

- If the behaviors are dangerous or interfering, ask them to leave the building.

## **WHAT SHOULD I NOT DO?**

- You cannot ask for documentation that the animal is a service animal or for proof of training.
- Do not make assumptions or say you don't think the animal is really a service animal.
- You cannot require prior notice (with the exception of housing, which falls under HUD laws that differ in some cases from ADA requirements.).
- Do not pet a service animal without permission. Always ask the handler before petting an animal; this is a working animal performing a necessary task for an individual with a disability.