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## **COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY**

### *Services Animals*

Policy Name: Service Animals

Policy Owner: Center for Accommodation and Access

Responsible University Office: Center for Accommodation and Access

Approval Date:

Effective Date:

Revisions:

Policy Number:

Related Policies: Evacuation Guidelines, Attendance and Students with Disabilities, Disability Services and Accommodations Procedures, Grievance Procedure and Students with Disabilities, Off-Campus Programing and Internships, Personal Attendant, Physical Accommodations, Services to Students (SSD) Record Retention Policy, Temporary Disabilities, Testing Administration Procedures, and Emotional Support Animal

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## **II. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF POLICY**

This document defines "service animal" and outlines the expectations of the institution, service animal, and its owner.

## **III. DEFINITIONS**

The definition of “**disability**” in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, P.L. 101-336 (July 26, 1990), as amended by P.L. 110–325 (September 25, 2008) draws substantially from existing legislation, namely Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988. The ADA defines disability with respect to an individual, as:

- a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such an individual
- a record of such an impairment; or
- being regarded as having such impairment.

**"Major life activities"** is defined as an individual being limited in his or her ability to perform such functions as self-care, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, working, neurological, digestive, or respiratory.

A **"service animal"** is an animal that is trained to perform tasks that benefit an individual with a disability. Tasks include, but are not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals who are hearing impaired to intruders or sound, pulling a wheelchair, warning of oncoming seizures, or retrieving dropped items. Currently, animals that are recognized as service animals under the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended by the Amendments Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-325) are dogs or miniature horses that are individually trained to work or perform tasks that are directly related to an individual's physical, intellectual, or mental disability. Therapy or emotional support animals are not considered service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

#### IV. POLICY SECTION

Service animals must be under the control of the handler at all times. Under the ADA, 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. While the owner/handler is responsible for the care or supervision of the animal, campus maintenance will provide assistance in the disposal and cleanup of animal waste, if needed.

Service animals are welcome in all buildings on campus and may attend any class meeting or event. Reasonable behavior and cleanliness are expected from service animals. A person with a disability cannot be asked to remove his service animal from the premises unless: (1) the dog is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it, or (2) the dog is not housebroken. If there is a legitimate reason to ask that a service animal be removed, the university must offer the person with the disability the opportunity to remain in the class or to participate in the event without the animal's presences.

City ordinances require that dogs or any other animal be vaccinated against rabies and also have city permit.

Employees cannot ask about the owner's disability, for documentation, for special identification card or training documents, or for the dog/horse to perform its task. Employees are allowed to only ask two questions of service animal owners; those questions are:

(1) Is the dog/horse a service animal because of a disability?

(2) What task does the dog/horse perform?

#### V. **PROCEDURES**

Service animals in training are welcome on campus, however per Georgia law it is required that the handler notify the Center for Accommodation and Access and provide proof that the animal is in training.

#### VI. **RELATED BOARD OF REGENTS' POLICIES**

4.1.5 Students with Disabilities

#### VII. **LINKS**

<https://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2010/title-30/chapter-4/30-4-2/>

[http://www.ada.gov/service\\_animals\\_2010.htm](http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm)

<https://caa.columbusstate.edu/>