

University of Chicago Student Service Animal Management Policy

The University of Chicago student service animal management policy defines a service animal and clarifies the use and expectations in use of service animals.

ADA Law:

Service animals are animals that are individually trained to perform tasks for people with disabilities such as guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling wheelchairs, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, or performing other special tasks. Service animals are working animals, not pets.

Requesting Reasonable Accommodation:

A student who wishes to request an academic modification or adjustment should contact the Coordinator for Disability Services or the Interim Associate Dean of Students in the University to initiate the disability determination process. The process of determining eligibility and considering what is a reasonable modification or adjustment is an interactive and collaborative process. Reasonable efforts are to be made both by the student requesting reasonable accommodation and the representative of the Office of the Vice-President for Campus and Student Life to complete the disability determination process and the consideration of any reasonable academic modification or adjustment expeditiously. For more information visit disabilities@uchicago.edu.

Documentation Requirements:

The partner of the service animal will be required to meet with the Coordinator for Disability Services or other appropriate representative of the Office of the Vice President for Campus and Student Life, providing the following information for documentation purposes:

Licensing - The animal must meet the licensing requirements of the state of Illinois. (For nonresidents, home state tags may be accepted.)

Health records - All service animals must be up-to-date on vaccinations for rabies, and any other shots required by the City of Chicago, and have a current registration. Animal must be in good health. Students living in University-owned housing units must obtain yearly clean bill of health from licensed veterinarian and provide this to the Coordinator for Disability Services or her designee by September 15 of each academic year. Preventative measures should be taken at all times for flea and odor control.

Minimum training standards - Documentation the animal has been individually trained to provide the service/assistance to meet the needs of the student/partner.

Identification - It is recommended that the animal wear some type of commonly recognized identification symbol, identifying the animal as a working animal, but not disclosing disability.

Conflicting/Competing Disabilities - Students with medical condition(s) that are affected by animals should contact the Coordinator for Disability Services or her designee if they have a health or safety related concern about exposure to the service animal. This individual will be asked to provide medical documentation that identifies the condition(s) and will allow

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determination to be made as to whether the condition is disabling and whether there is a need for an accommodation.

Types of Service Dogs:

Service dog - Service dog is a dog that has been trained to assist a person who has a mobility or health impairment. Types of duties the dog may perform include carrying, fetching, opening doors, ringing doorbells, activating elevator buttons, steadying a person while walking, helping a person up after the person falls, etc. Service dogs are sometimes referred to as assistance dogs.

Guide dog - Guide dog is a carefully trained dog that serves as a travel tool by persons who are blind or have severe visual impairment.

Hearing dog - Hearing dog is a dog who has been trained to alert a person with significant hearing loss or who is deaf when a sound, e.g., knock on the door, occurs.

Seizure response dog - Seizure response dog is a dog trained to assist a person with a seizure disorder; how the dog serves the person depends on the person's needs. The dog may stand guard over the person during a seizure, or the dog may go for help. A few dogs have somehow learned to predict a seizure and warn the person in advance.

Dog in training - A dog being trained as a service animal has the same rights as a fully trained dog when accompanied by a trainer and identified as such.

Dogs of the following breeds, including mixed breeds, may not be permitted: Akitas, Chows, Doberman Pinschers, Huskies, Pit Bulls, Presa Canarios, Rottweilers, Staffordshire Terriers, and Wolf-Hybrids. Other breeds are permitted provided they have no history of biting people and show no aggressive behavior.

Partner/handler - A person with a service animal. A person with a disability is called a partner; a person without a disability is called a handler.

Team - A partner, or a handler, and his or her service animal. The two work as a cohesive team in accomplishing the tasks of everyday living.

Emergency Situations –In the event of an emergency, the emergency personnel that responds should be trained to recognize service animals and be aware that the animal maybe trying to communicate the need for help. It is encouraged that the service animal wear an identifying marker which is visible to the response team and be aware that the animal may be trying to communicate the need for help. The animal may become disoriented from the smell of smoke in a fire or laboratory emergency, and from sirens. The partner and/or animal may be confused from the stressful situation. Emergency personnel should be aware that the animal is trying to be protective and, in its confusion, is not to be considered harmful. Emergency personnel should make every effort to keep the animal with its partner. However, emergency personnel's first

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effort should be toward the partner; this may necessitate leaving the animal behind in certain emergency evacuation situations.

Management for Service Animal:

- Service animals must be accompanied by the partner, remain in close proximity to and if possible be restrained on a leash at all times;
- The animal should respond to voice commands at all times, and be in full control of the partner; and
- To the extent possible, the animal should be as unobtrusive to other students and the learning environment as possible.

Student with Service Animal can request for others to avoid:

- petting or addressing a service animal as it may distract them from the task at hand;
- feeding the service animal;
- deliberately startling a service animal;
- separating or attempting to separate a partner from his/her service animal; and
- hesitating to ask a student if she/he would like assistance if there seems to be confusion.

To the extent possible, the animal should not:

- sniff people, dining facilities tables or the personal belongings of others;
- display any behaviors or noises that are disruptive to others unless part of the service being provided for the partner;
- engage in personal grooming in public settings; and
- block an aisle or passageway for fire and/or emergency egress.

Poor Health - Animals that are ill or in poor health should not be taken into public areas. A partner with an ill animal may be required to remove the animal from the University's property.

Maintenance - It is the responsibility of the partner to make arrangements to handle any cleaning that is necessary due to the presence of the service animal. Feces must be cleaned up immediately and disposed of properly. This includes University common areas and exterior property such as courtyards, walkways, etc.

Campus Access of Service Animals:

A service animal is permitted to accompany the student anywhere the student goes on campus with the following exceptions:

- **Research laboratories** – Chemicals found in many labs can be harmful to service animals. Organisms naturally found on most dogs or other animals could negatively impact the outcome of the research.
- **Mechanical rooms/custodial closets** – Such locations can have chemicals or machinery that could potentially harm a service animal; and service animals may cause disruption to services.

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- Medical center - Students with a service animal need to notify and coordinate with medical personnel staff in advance (for non-emergency visits) the presence of a service animal, due to the unique situation with patient care and infection diseases control.
- Other areas that may present a danger to the service animal – Any room, studio or classroom with sharp metal cuttings or glass shards on the floor; hot material such as molten metal or glass on the floor; excessive dust; or moving machinery.

When students with service animals must be in one of these restricted areas for a course requirement, alternative arrangements will be considered to provide access. When it is determined unsafe for the team to be in one of these areas, reasonable accommodations will be provided to assure the student equal access to the academic program or activity.

Using a Service Animal in the College House System and in Graduate Student Housing:

Service animals must be accompanied by the partner, remain in close proximity to and if possible be restrained on a leash at all times.

In University-owned housing units, anytime a work-order is requested to make a repair, the resident of the unit must be present and contain the service animal in a room that facilities staff or contractors will not need to enter to complete the repair.

It is the responsibility of the partner to make arrangements to handle any cleaning that is necessary due to the presence of the service animal. This includes University-owned housing units' common areas and exterior property such as courtyards, walkways, and front/back yards. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the partner to make arrangements to handle any cleaning that is necessary due to the presence of the service animal. Feces must be cleaned up immediately and disposed of properly.

Students living in University-owned housing units with a service animal are encouraged to maintain renters' insurance, including liability coverage for the animal.

Removal of Service Animal from a University-Owned Housing Unit or Campus:

Animals that become aggressive will be required to leave the campus immediately. The partner of a service animal is expected to report such incidents to Coordinator for Disability Services or her designee within 24 hours of the occurrence.

The partner of a service animal will be required to remove the animal if it exhibits unruly, disruptive, or threatening behavior. This behavior can include excessive barking, running around without a leash, or growling/biting others. A service animal that makes excessive noise in a residence hall can be very disruptive to other residents. A disruptive animal in a classroom can also hinder the learning of other students. The partner will be required to remove the service animal from campus until the inappropriate behavior can be brought under control.

An excessively unclean or unkempt service animal can be asked to leave campus until the problems are resolved.

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Failure to uphold and abide by these policies described here may result in a University member not being permitted to keep their service animal in University owned housing units.

Individuals using service animals should complete the Service Animal Registration Form and submit it to the Coordinator for Disability Services or her designee a minimum of 30 days prior to the start of the quarter in which the service animal will arrive on campus.

Any questions regarding the student service animal policy can be directed to the Coordinator for Disability Services at 773-834-4469.

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Please complete this form and submit it to the Coordinator for Disability Services or her designee a minimum of 30 days prior to the start of the quarter in which the service animal will arrive to campus. Complete a new form as any changes in the information about your animal occur.

Full Name: _____

Local address: _____

Name of Service Animal: _____

Breed: _____

Enclosed with this form are the following documents:

- Copy of License
- Verification of Health Records
- Copy of Training Certificate
- Verification of Identification tag

**Has the service animal ever bitten or shown aggressive behavior towards people?

**Is the service animal current on shots, including vaccination for rabies?

It is strongly encouraged, if you live in University-owned housing, to consider obtaining renter's insurance. If you have renter's insurance, please provide the following:

Insurer: _____

Policy #: _____

I have read and understand the University of Chicago Service Animal Policy, and by my signature below I agree to follow the policy throughout my time at the University of Chicago.

Signature

Date

***The University reserves the right to refuse any service animals that do not fit our policy.*