

Chapter 10: Service Animals

Service Animals (SAs)

- What is a service animal?
 - An SA is a dog or miniature horse that has been trained to perform specific task(s) directly related to the handler's disability diagnosis.
 - A trained SA is considered an extension of the handler and is intensely trained to perform specific tasks directly related to the handler's diagnosed condition. Therefore, SAs are allowed in all buildings with their handler.
- How do I know if it is a service animal?
 - SAs are strongly encouraged (**but not required**) to wear an identifying vest.
 - The Student Access and Resource Center (SAR Center) strongly encourages all students with an SA, that will be accompanying them on campus, to apply to the SAR Center. SAs are **not required** to be registered with the SAR Center on campus, although for support on campus and potentially other available accommodations, it is encouraged.
- The handler's responsibilities while the SA is on campus include the following (depending on the environment, additional responsibilities may be necessary):
 - As an extension of the Handler, the dog accompanies the Handler everywhere they go. The SA is not to be left unattended or in the care of another individual anywhere on campus.
 - You must keep the SA properly harnessed, leashed, and controlled. If your disability does not permit the use of a harness, leash, or tether, the SA must still be under your control.
 - The handler is responsible for the behavior of the SA. Some examples of unacceptable behavior include uncontrolled barking, jumping, sniffing, growling and whining, etc., if not related to a specific service the SA is providing.
 - The handler is responsible for cleaning up after the SA while on campus.
 - The handler must ensure the SA does not infringe upon aisles or passageways for fire egress. In a lab environment, additional measures may be needed to ensure the safety of the SA.
- **A faculty or a staff member may not inquire about the nature or extent of your disability, but may make two (2) inquiries when it is not readily apparent that the animal is an SA:**
 - Is the SA required because of a disability? and;

- What work or tasks has the SA been specifically trained to perform related to your disability?

Emotional Support Animals (ESAs)

- What is an emotional support animal?
 - An ESA, sometimes referred to as an assistance animal, is an animal that provides emotional support, comfort or companionship for a person with a disability to mitigate the impacts of the disability. An ESA is not required to have formal training. An ESA **is not considered a SA under the Americans with Disabilities Act and therefore are not allowed in non-residence buildings such as classrooms or labs.**