

# Service Animals in Housing

The University recognizes the importance of Service Animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA). USU is committed to allowing individuals with disabilities the use of a Service Animal on campus to facilitate their full-participation and equal access to the University's programs and activities. A Service Animal is any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. The work must be active and specifically related to the person's disability. Simply providing comfort or emotional support does not qualify a dog as a service animal.

Individuals planning to have a Service Animal in their University Housing residence, will need to give sufficient notice to the Disability Resource Center to allow the appropriate arrangements regarding placement, roommates, etc. to be made. Service Animal Handlers will be asked to provide verification that their service animal has had the appropriate vaccinations and information related to their animal that will allow Housing to make appropriate arrangements.

## Expectations for Service Animal Handlers

- The Handler is responsible for ensuring that the Service Animal is crated when the Handler is not present. The university reserves the right to inspect the enclosure to be used in containing the animal.
- When a Service Animal is outside the private individual living accommodations, it must be controlled by a leash or harness. No Handler shall permit their dog to go loose or run at large. If an animal is found running at large, the animal is subject to capture and confinement and immediate removal from University housing.
- The Handler is required to immediately clean up after and properly dispose of their dog's waste in a safe and sanitary manner.
- The Handler must provide the University with verification from a veterinarian that the Service Animal has received all the appropriate vaccinations.
- Service Animals and their crates, cages, and bedding, may not be washed using communal Housing facilities or equipment (i.e. showers, bathtubs, washing machines, etc.)
- A Handler may be charged for any damage caused by his or her dog beyond reasonable wear and tear to the same extent that Housing charges other individuals for damages beyond reasonable wear and tear. The Handler's living accommodations may also be inspected for fleas, ticks or other pests. If fleas, ticks or other pests are detected through inspection, the residence will be treated using approved fumigation methods. The Handler will be billed for the expense of any pest treatment above and beyond standard pest management in the residence. The University shall have the right to bill the Handler's account for unmet obligations under this provision.

- Service Animals in training may not be left overnight in University Housing to be cared for by any individual other than the Handler. If the Handler is to be absent from his/her University residence overnight or longer, the animal must accompany the Handler or be boarded off campus.
- The Handler agrees to abide by all equally applicable residential policies that are unrelated to the individual's disability such as assuring that the animal does not unduly interfere with the routine activities of the residence or cause difficulties for individuals who reside there.
- USU personnel shall not be required to provide care or food for any Service Animal including, but not limited to, removing the animal during emergency evacuation for events such as a fire alarm. Emergency personnel will determine whether to remove the animal and may not be held responsible for the care, damage to, or loss of the animal. The Handler must provide the University with the name and contact information for someone who does not reside in University Housing and who can take responsibility for the animal within 12 hours should the Handler be unable or unavailable to care for it.
- In Single Housing, the individual must provide written consent for the Disability Resource Center to disclose information regarding the presence of the Service Animal to those individuals who may be impacted by the presence of the animal including, but not limited to, Residence Life personnel and potential and/or actual roommate(s)/neighbor(s). Such information shall be limited to information related to the animal and shall not include information related to the individual's disability.