

Providing Instruction for Students with Service Animals

Dallas Baptist University recognizes the importance of Service Animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”). The University will permit the use of a Service Animal by an individual with a disability who satisfies the requirements of the ADA. The use of a Service Animal is allowed in all areas of the University where members of the public, participants in services, programs or activities, or invitees are normally allowed to go, unless it would fundamentally alter the nature of the goods, services, programs, or activities provided by the University or is prohibited by health laws (i.e., food preparation areas, swimming pools, sterile laboratories, etc.).

Applicable Laws and Definition



Service Animal: A dog (or when permitted by law, a miniature horse) that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of someone with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. The animal must be trained to take a specific action when needed to assist the person with a disability. Examples include but are not limited to assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, pulling a wheelchair, and providing physical support and assistance to individuals with mobility disabilities. Animals whose sole function is to provide comfort, emotional support, companionship, or improve the well-being of the student do not qualify as Service Animals under the ADA and thus do not meet the definition of Service Animal under this policy.

Inquiries



Students in circumstances where it is not readily apparent what service the animal is providing, University staff may ask the handler all of the following: (1) Is the animal a Service Animal required because of a disability? (2) What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

Good Practices



- Do not touch a service animal without the consent of the owner.
 - It is okay to acknowledge the presence of the service animal when speaking with the owner, but do not touch, pet, or say the name of the animal as it is considered to be "on duty" or "working" and must maintain focus on performing the task it is trained to do for the well-being of the owner.
- Do not require the service animal to wear a vest.
 - It is common to picture a service animal wearing a vest but service animals often wear different accessories identifying them as a service animal. These include vests, collars, leashes, ID tags, and in some circumstances the owner will carry a card.
- Do not require the owner of a service animal to sit in a specific seat.
- Do not ask the owner of a service animal to disclose information beyond what is included in the inquiries section included above.
- Refrain from referring to the service animal during course instruction.
- Speak to the student as you would any other.

Please contact accommodations@dbu.edu or (214) 333-5394 should you have any questions or concerns.