

University of Evansville Service Animal Protocol and Agreement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines service animals as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. The ADA further states that dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

Service dogs are welcome anywhere on campus that is open to the public. However, the University may prohibit the use of service dogs in certain locations because of health and safety restrictions. Restricted areas may include, but are not limited to, areas where protective clothing is necessary, wood or metal shops, and rooms with heavy machinery.

The University of Evansville recommends that service animals wear an identifying vest, harness, cape, or backpack at all times while working so others can quickly recognize it is a service animal.

Inquiries

When it is not clear what service an animal provides, only limited inquiries are allowed. Staff and faculty may ask two questions (1) is the service animal required because of a disability, and (2) what work or task the dog has been trained to perform. Staff cannot ask about the person's disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card or training documentation for the dog, or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.

Requirements of Services Animals and their Owners

1. The animal cannot pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others while on University's premises.
2. The Owner must be in full control of the animal 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
3. State and local ordinances regarding animals apply to service animals. The Owner is responsible for being knowledgeable of these laws and for fully complying with those requirements.

4. The Owner is required to pick-up and dispose of the animal's waste in a safe and sanitary manner. Owners who are not physically able to pick up and dispose of the animal's waste and fluids are responsible for making all necessary arrangements for assistance. The university is not responsible for these services.
5. For service animals living in campus housing, the animal is not to be bathed or its cage/crate, or bedding cleaned using University facilities. It is recommended the Owner bathe their service animal at local pet stores that offer self-service pet washing facilities. The Owner should use local laundromats for washing animal bedding.
6. The Owner is liable for damage caused by the animal.
7. The Owner is responsible for instructing others on appropriate interactions with the animal and setting clear expectations.

Exclusions

It may be necessary to ask that a service animal be removed from the premises if:

1. The animal is out of control, aggressive to others, or significantly disruptive and the owner does not take proper action to control the animal.
2. The animal is not housebroken.

In the event that restriction or removal of a service animal is determined to be necessary, every effort will be made to assure that the individual still has access to the programs, services, or activities of the University without the animal.

Service Animals in Classrooms

Students who are enrolled in classes may voluntarily register their service animal with the University by contacting Disability Services at 812-488-2663 or disabilityservices@evansville.edu. While this is not required, it may aide the student in accessing the University premises and will allow our office to prepare a safe and healthy environment for you, your service animal, and others.

Service Animals Living in University Housing

Sufficient notice, which is generally at least 30 days of the intent of an individual with a disability planning to have a service animal in University Housing must be given to Disability Services at 812-488-2663 or disabilityservices@evansville.edu so that appropriate arrangements regarding placement and roommates can be made. Students with service animals that are living in campus housing need to sign the Acknowledgement and Release of Information Consent Form found on the last page of this document and return it to Disability Services before moving to campus.

Owners of service animals must abide by applicable residential policies that are unrelated to the individual's disability such as assuring the animal does not unduly interfere with the routine activities of the residence or cause difficulties for individuals who reside there.

Acknowledgement and Release of Information Consent Form

My signature below verifies that I have read, understand, and will abide by the requirements outlined in the University of Evansville’s Service Animal Protocol and Agreement.

I understand that if I fail to meet the requirements set forth in this policy, the University of Evansville has the right to remove the service animal and I will still be required to fulfill my housing obligations for the remainder of my housing contract.

I furthermore give permission to the University to disclose to others impacted by the presence of my service animal, such as actual and potential roommates, neighbors, University personnel, or contractors, that I will be living with a service animal. I understand this information will be shared with the intent of preparing for the presence of the service animal and/or resolving any potential issues associated with the presence of the animal.

I further recognize that the presence of the service animal may be noticed by others visiting or residing in University Housing and agree that staff may acknowledge the presence of the animal and explain that under certain circumstances service animals are permitted for persons with disabilities.

Student Signature

Date

Disability Services Representative

Date

Residence Life

Date