

BETHEL UNIVERSITY

Service Animal Policy

Bethel University follows the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the most recent guidance from the Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding service animals. In accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act and Department of Justice, Bethel University offers the following guidelines for approved service animals on campus.

SERVICE ANIMAL DEFINITION:

An animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, intellectual, or other mental disability. The work or tasks performed by a Service Animal must be directly related to the handler's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to the following: assisting an individual who is blind, or has low vision with navigation and other tasks; alerting an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds; pulling a wheelchair; assisting an individual during a seizure; alerting the individual to the presence of allergens; retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone; providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to an individual with a mobility disability; helping the individual with a neurological disability by preventing accidents or mishaps. The following does not meet the definition of a service animal: the crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purpose of this definition (a "therapy animal" or "emotional support animal" does not meet the definition of a "service animal." Please see separate policy and application for "emotional support animal" at Bethel University).

The Disabilities Services office (Center for Academic Success) works with all students with accommodations; therefore, they are the college contact for any service animal accommodations and coordination of service.

HOUSING REQUEST PROCESS:

Bethel University students who are residing on campus with a service animal must indicate the need for an accommodation when completing their online housing registration.

Any accommodation needs relative to living on campus should be communicated with the Student Life office as early as possible, including service animals. All requests must be made when requesting housing through the online campus profile. Various campus housing locations have been modified for students with disabilities.

REMOVAL OF SERVICE ANIMAL:

Bethel University has reserved the right to ask that the animal undergo additional training or be removed if it does not fit this description or has become disruptive. For example, a properly trained service animal will remain at its owner's feet. It does not run freely around, bark or growl at other persons or animals, bite or jump on people, or urinate or defecate inside buildings. An animal that engages in such disruptive behavior shows that it has not been successfully trained to function as a service animal in public settings.

EXPECTATIONS OF HANDLER:

- The good health of the animal is the responsibility of the owner, including appropriate immunizations and registration. If the animal is in ill health (bowel/bladder control problems, fleas, etc.), the owner may be asked to remove it from campus.
- The animal must be house broken. The individual is responsible for immediate clean-up of all animal waste; it must be placed in a closed plastic bag, and disposed of promptly in an outdoor dumpster. Animal waste is not to be disposed of indoors. If the handler is not physically capable of cleaning up after the service animal, the handler must hire, and pay, someone else to do so.