

PRESENTATION COLLEGE

ANIMAL GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

GENERAL ANIMAL GUIDELINES

- Students are not permitted to have pets in the Suites.
- Individuals with disabilities who use a service animal on campus are asked to notify Disability Services (located in the Career & Learning Center).
- Individuals with disabilities who wish to have an assistance animal in student housing must make a formal application and request for this accommodation through the Disability Services Coordinator (Director of the CLC).

SERVICE ANIMALS

DEFINITION

Service animals are animals trained to assist people with disabilities in the activities of normal living. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) definition of service animals is "...any dog individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals who are hearing impaired to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair or fetching dropped items." If an animal meets this criteria, it is considered a service animal regardless of whether it has been licensed or certified by a state or local government or training program. Their service for the individual with a disability entitles them to access of public places and common areas. Under the new ADA standards, miniature horses are recognized as service animals. They must meet the same criteria as service dogs.

EVALUATION

Evaluation is based on the following two questions:

1. Does the person seeking to use and live with the animal have a disability as defined by the ADA: a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity?
2. Does the person making the request have a disability-related need for a service animal?

Once identified as a service animal under the ADA guidelines, please contact Disability Services 30 days prior to the start of classes. Call 605.229.8580 or stop by the Career & Learning Center.

EXPECTATIONS FOR SERVICE ANIMALS

- All animals must be in compliance with the provisions of the City of Aberdeen's Animal Ordinance.
 - <http://www.aberdeen.sd.us/index.aspx?NID=707>
- Service animal must be under the control of the user at all times.
- Animals must be clean, groomed, and free of ticks or other pests.
- Service animals may be prohibited from areas that may be hazardous to the animal or its owner (mechanical equipment rooms, etc.)
- To assist the campus population in recognizing a service animal, it is highly encouraged, but not required, that a service animal be identified by a marked harness or cape.

ASSISTANCE ANIMALS

DEFINITION

Presentation College Suites are covered under the Fair Housing Act (FHA), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) in addition to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The FHA addresses assistance animals as follows:

An assistance animal is not a pet. It is an animal that works, provides assistance, or performs tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, or provides emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's disability. Assistance animals perform many disability-related functions, including but not limited to, guiding individuals who are blind or have low vision, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to sounds, providing protection or rescue assistance, pulling a wheelchair, fetching items, alerting persons to impending seizures, or providing emotional support to persons with disabilities who have a disability-related need for such support. For purposes of reasonable accommodation requests, neither the FHA nor Section 504 requires an assistance animal to be individually trained or certified. While dogs are the most common type of assistance animal, other animals can also be assistance animals.

EVALUATION

The Disabilities Coordinator will evaluate a request for a reasonable accommodation to possess an assistance animal in a suite, using the general principles applicable to all disabilities accommodation requests. Documentation of disability and accommodation recommendations must be current and be prepared by a licensed mental health professional, such as a licensed counselor (including PC Campus Counselor), psychologist, or psychiatrist. The Disabilities Coordinator may accept documentation from a different licensed medical professional in exceptional circumstances. *See Disability Documentation Criteria. **Requests must be made in writing at least 30 days prior to the start of classes in order to accommodate the student making the request, but also the residents of the building.**

The request may be considered for rejection if:

1. The specific assistance animal in question poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others that cannot be reduced or eliminated by another reasonable accommodation, or;
2. The specific assistance animal in question would cause substantial physical damage to the property of others that cannot be reduced or eliminated by another reasonable accommodation (Breed, size, and weight limitations are not applied to an assistance animal).

EXPECTATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE ANIMALS

Because assistance animals are in close proximity to students and others, the handler is to ensure the following:

- The animal must be up-to-date with check-ups and vaccinations. Veterinary records must be provided.
- Vaccination and license tags must be displayed on the animal (when applicable).
- All animals must be in compliance with the provisions of the City of Aberdeen's Animal Ordinance.
 - <http://www.aberdeen.sd.us/index.aspx?NID=707>
- Assistance animal must be under the control of the user at all times.
- Animals must be clean, groomed, and free of ticks or other pests.
- As stated in the Housing Guide, students are responsible for damages that are caused in the suites.
- The animal must not be disruptive to others in the suites.
- Assistance animals are allowed to accompany persons with disabilities in suites only and designated areas where they relieve themselves.
- Handler is responsible for promptly cleaning up after the animal.

Presentation College is committed to ensuring equal learning opportunities for all students, and provides students with emotional, learning, or physical disabilities reasonable accommodations in accordance with federal guidelines and the College's policies and procedures.

Presentation College will make reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations are those that do not fundamentally alter the nature of the program, that can be readily achieved without undue financial or administrative burden, and that can be provided without lowering academic and other essential performance standards. Each person who has met the academic and technical standards for admission to or participation in the College programs will receive the educational opportunities, programs and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate.

Please contact the Office of Disabilities Services for more information, 605.229.8580.



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