

Policy and Expectations for Service Dogs on Campus

Rev. 8.12.24

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA) and the Fair Housing Act (FHA), individuals with disabilities may be permitted to have their service dog in the residence halls of Albright College. Please contact the Director of Student Accessibility and Advocacy (SAA) about your service dog as soon as possible to ensure timely accommodations and appropriate access to the campus.

Please note that service dogs are different from therapeutic emotional support animals and are treated differently under various laws. If you have questions about a service animal, please contact SAA@albright.edu.

Definitions:

Service animal:

Dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. These tasks can include things like pulling a wheelchair, guiding a visually impaired person, alerting a person who is having a seizure, or even calming a person who suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The tasks a service dog can perform are not limited to those on this list; however, **the work or task a service dog does must be directly related to the person's disability. Service dogs may accompany persons with disabilities into places that the public normally goes.** This includes state and local government buildings, businesses open to the public, public transportation, food service facilities, and non-profit organizations open to the public. The law that allows a trained service dog to accompany a person with a disability is the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA. A service animal is not a pet.

Handler:

An individual who requires the assistance of a service animal.

Voluntary Registration

Individuals who are enrolled in courses and who have a service animal are encouraged to register their service animal with the college. Registration is NOT mandatory; however, registration of the service animal may aid in accessing college premises and would allow emergency personnel to be aware of individuals who are accompanied by a service animal in the event of an emergency. Individuals who would like to voluntarily register their service animal may contact the Disability Services Coordinator at 610-921-7503

Care of Service Dogs

Albright College and employees of the college are not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal. This includes, but is not limited to, providing food for the animal as well as cleaning up the animal's waste. Individuals who are not able to pick up and dispose of their animal's waste are responsible for making all necessary arrangements for assistance. Dogs must be housebroken and able to live on campus without creating a disturbance for other residents and members of the community.

Unattended Service Dogs

- Service dogs should be with their handler at all times.
- Students should contact the Director of SAA as soon as possible in instances of temporary illness or hospitalization.

Handler Responsibilities

- The handler must always be in full control of the animal. Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered unless these devices interfere with the services animal's work or the individual's disability prevents these devices. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective means.
- As a courtesy to others, as much as possible the handler should ensure that the service animal does not approach and sniff others, dining tables, or personal belongings of others.
- The handler must assure that the service animal does not block emergency exits.
- The animal must display good behavior and not disrupt others unless alerting the handler as appropriately trained.

Service Animals in Residence Halls

Individuals with service animals are encouraged to remember that their animal will impact others living and working at Albright. Albright College is a residential campus that requires all students to reside on campus for the entire four (4) years. Albright is committed to providing equal access to individuals with disabilities; as such, the college is aware that individuals may need the assistance of a service animal to access college housing.

- A handler who plans to have a service animal in residence in college housing must provide sufficient notice to the SAA office. Providing sufficient notice allows the college an opportunity to make appropriate arrangements regarding housing placement, roommates, etc.
- The handler is required to clean up after and properly dispose of the animal's waste in a safe and sanitary manner.
- Waste disposal via college plumbing is prohibited. The handler should always carry equipment sufficient to clean up and properly dispose of the animal's waste. In the event an individual's disability prevents them from cleaning up and disposing of the animal's waste, the handler is responsible for making appropriate arrangements. The college is not responsible for these services.
- The animal will not be bathed, nor its cage/crate or bedding be cleaned, using student housing or college facilities.

- An individual with a disability may be charged for any damage caused by his or her service dog beyond reasonable wear and tear to the same extent that it 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 by a college-approved pest control service. The handler will be billed for the expense of any pest treatment above and beyond standard pest management in the residence halls. The college shall have the right to bill the handler's account for unmet obligations under this provision.
- Students with service animals must maintain a clean and orderly room. Pet hair and dander should be cleaned up regularly, as other residents may have allergies or may develop allergies.
- Consistent with the Community Living Guide, "periodic inspections will be made randomly throughout the academic year. An official of the college may make at least one inspection a month."
- **The presence of a service dog does not indicate that the student will have a single room. If the student requires a single room as a separate accommodation, the student should follow the procedure for housing accommodation requests.**
- If the student with a service dog has a roommate, the service animal must be discussed; necessary provisions regarding the animal are included in the roommate contract. For example, roommates should discuss restrictions on the animal's movement in the room/apartment or how the animal will adhere to quiet hours. The student and roommates need to meet with a professional staff member with the Office of Residential Life to complete an updated roommate contract. The staff member will guide students to craft an optimized roommate contract which will account for a variety of scenarios that might impact the communal living environment. The updated roommate contract should be completed at least one business day prior to the animal's arrival. If the roommate does not want to live with a service animal, an alternate housing situation will be created for the student.
- Service animals may be asked to leave the residence halls if they are disruptive or exhibit aggressive or fearful behavior.
- Students with service animals will be held responsible for destruction and damage to the residence halls caused by the animal and should consult the Community Living Guide for further information on property loss and damage. In addition, Albright College is not responsible for damages to personal or individual property caused by such animals.
- Students with service animals will be responsible for any excessive cleaning beyond normal "wear and tear" to remove odors or urine.
- Students are expected to accept responsibility for damage to personal or college property caused by their animal. This includes the property of their roommate(s) and other members of the college community.
- The handler is responsible for instructing others on appropriate interactions with the service animal and setting clear expectations.

Service Dog Licensing and Vaccinations

Service dogs at Albright must meet license and vaccination requirements for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and wear the designated licensing tags. Students are encouraged to provide these records to the Director of Student Accessibility and Advocacy. Copies of these records will be forwarded to the Office of Residential Life.

Standards for Service Animals

Albright recognizes that successfully trained service animals will enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities and will not have a negative impact on other members of the college community. To that end we ask that students review the standards from [Assistance Dog International](#), and that service dogs on campus meet these standards.

- Animal shows no aggression towards people or other animals.
- Animal is clean, well-groomed and does not have an offensive odor.
- Animal does not urinate or defecate in inappropriate locations.
- Animal does not solicit attention, visit, or annoy any member of the college community or general public.
- Animal does not vocalize unnecessarily, i.e., barking, growling, or whining.
- Animal does not disrupt the normal course of teaching or college business.
- Animal does not solicit or steal food or other items from the college community or the general public.
- Animal is under the control of the handler at all times.
- Animal stays within 24" of its handler at all times unless the nature of a trained task requires it to be working at a greater distance.

Inquiries

An individual's disability may not be visible. When it is not obvious what service an animal provides and the handler has chosen to not voluntarily register their service animal with the SAA office, only limited inquiries are allowed. College personnel may ask two questions in determining the validity of the presence of a service animal:

1. "Is the animal required because of a disability?"
2. "What work or task is the animal trained to perform?"

College personnel cannot ask about the person's disability, require medical documentation, require special identification cards or training documentation for the dog, or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.

Exclusions

A person with an impairment will be asked to remove their service animal from the college or specific location for the following reasons:

- The animal would cause a fundamental alteration of campus facilities, programs, or activity.
- The animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.
- The animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it.
- The animal is not housebroken, or the handler is not able to maintain a hygienic living environment.
- The animal infringes inappropriately into other's personal space.
- The handler is unable to care for the animal (students should contact the Director of SAA as soon as possible in instances of temporary illness or hospitalization).

Individuals who are asked to remove their service animal should contact the Director of SAA promptly to inquire about reasonable accommodations without the animal's presence.

Potential Facility Exclusions

Service dogs are generally allowed to accompany their handlers anywhere their handlers are permitted on campus, including academic classrooms. However, there may be places where the presence of service animals may be restricted due to health and safety concerns. Each scenario will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. In some areas (for example, laboratories), if the animal is permitted, it may be asked to wear protective gear such as booties, a jacket, or goggles. Potential areas requiring special consideration are:

- Some classroom and research laboratories: The natural organisms carried by service animals may negatively affect the outcome of research or classroom activities. Additionally, the chemicals and/or organisms used in the research may be harmful to service animals.
- Areas where protective clothing is necessary: Any room where protective clothing is required may be off-limits to service animals. If the animal is permitted, it may be required to wear protective gear.
- Areas where there is a danger to the service animal: Any room, including a classroom, where there are sharp metal cuttings or other sharp objects on the floor or protruding from a surface; where there is hot material on the floor; where there is a high level of dust; or where there is moving machinery may be off-limits to service animals.

Each location's safety will be evaluated by a group of individuals including the Director of SAA, the laboratory director or professor, and other staff who can assess and manage risks on campus. When an area is determined unsafe for the service animal, reasonable accommodations will be provided to assure the student equal access to the activity. Students utilizing service animals are encouraged to work with the SAA office before beginning a class to ensure that appropriate accommodations can be made.

Service Dogs-in-Training

Definition: Service dogs in training are dogs that are at least one year old and have completed both socialization and behavioral skills training. These dogs must have started training for specific tasks relating to a particular disability for a specific individual.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) assures people with disabilities who are accompanied by service animals that they will not be excluded from public places or activities, nor charged any additional fees, because they are accompanied by their service dog; however, the ADA does not provide the same protection to service animals in training (that is, the ADA assures access for the handler/partner only if the dog is fully trained to give some disability-related service). Pennsylvania state law (18 Pa.C.S.A. §7325) provides those same rights of access for people with disabilities, accompanied by service animals, and for individuals who are training service animals for a recognized authority (agency). For example, any nonprofit member or candidate of Assistance Dogs International, Guide Dogs for the Blind, or an individual employed by Canine Partners for Life who is preparing future service dogs to be paired with someone who is disabled, may bring the dog onto campus and interact with the campus community in public areas, campus offices, and so on.

Because Pennsylvania state law does not clarify further its use of the term "in training," the college has established policy based on accepted practices suggested by Assistance Dogs International (ADI). A service-dog-in-training is a dog, accompanied by its trainer, which is undergoing individual training to provide specific

disability-related work or service for an individual with a disability. Such task-specific training is generally undertaken with an adult dog only after having completed a period of obedience and socialization training (obedience training, being housebroken, getting acclimated to public places and everyday activities as pets). As service animals in training in Pennsylvania are only given access rights when accompanied by someone employed by a nonprofit agency, they generally cannot be in-residence in college housing, nor be present in other areas of campus except those places where all students are welcome to bring pets. Similarly, puppies who are being raised/trained in preparation for participating in formal service animal training generally are not welcome in college housing or on campus except where pets are allowed.

Service Dog Fraud

People trying to convert their pet into a service animal to gain public access to no-pet areas or reasonable accommodations for their pet in workplace or residence settings are committing disability fraud. Ignorance of the law has never been recognized as an acceptable defense in the United States.

Purchasing online documentation, paperwork, registrations, certifications, or vest/equipment to imply that a pet is a service animal is disability fraud by deception.

Disability fraud carries civil liabilities for your actions and your pet's actions. Many states are adopting additional criminal penalties for misrepresenting a pet as a service animal including fines, community service, jail time, and a permanent criminal record.

A person commits the offense of misrepresentation of entitlement to a service animal if the person intentionally:

- 1) misrepresents to another that the person has a disability or disability-related need for the use of a service animal in housing; or
- 2) makes materially false statements for the purpose of obtaining documentation for the use of a service animal in housing.

A person who violates the provisions commits a misdemeanor of the third degree.

[68 P.S. § 405.5](#)

Questions and concerns regarding service dogs on campus can be directed to the SAA office
by email at SAA@albright.edu or by phone at 610-921-7503