

ARC 641

Service Animal Policy

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for services animals in class or other campus areas.

SUMMARY

Clackamas Community College is committed to reasonably accommodating people with disabilities in compliance with applicable state and federal laws. Requests for a service animal will be determined on a case by case basis in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

A service animal is any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. 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 (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability.

STANDARD

As a general rule, Clackamas Community College will modify policies, practices, and procedures to permit the use of a service animal by an individual with a disability.

1. The ADA defines “service animal” as the following:

- a. A dog (or miniature horse) that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability.
- b. Other animals, whether wild or domestic, do not qualify as service animals.
- c. Dogs that are not trained to perform tasks that mitigate the effects of a disability, including dogs that are used purely for emotional support e.g. comfort, therapeutic benefit, companionship, etc. are not service animals.
- d. Individuals with mental disabilities may use service animals that are individually trained to perform a specific task.

2. The Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) define “service animal” as the following:

- a. A dog that is wearing a dog guide harness and is trained to lead or guide a person who is blind (ORS 346.610).

- b. A “hearing ear dog” means a dog that is on an orange leash and that is trained to assist a person who is deaf (ORS 346.640).
- c. An “assistance animal” means any animal trained to assist a person with a physical impairment in one or more daily life activities, including but not limited to dog guides trained to pull a wheelchair, fetch dropped items, or perform balance work (ORS 346.680).
- d. An “assistance animal trainee” means any animal undergoing training to assist a person with a physical impairment and has the same rights as a fully trained dog when accompanied by a trainer.

3. Conflicting Disabilities

If an individual with a disability and a service animal is registered in a course or present in a college area and another person arrives with serious allergies to animals, the first person cannot be removed to accommodate the second person. Individuals with serious allergies or respiratory medical issues are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Center Coordinator to discuss possible solutions to the situation.

4. Threat to Safety

If a service animal is determined to be out of control or threatening others as reported by students, staff, or administration, the infraction will be referred to Public Safety and B.I.T. Consequences may include but not be limited to muzzling a barking dog, refresher training for both the animal and individual with a disability, or exclusion of the service animal from college facilities.

5. Access to College Premises

An individual with a disability shall be permitted to be accompanied by a service animal in all areas of the college where members of the public, participants in services, programs, or activities, are allowed to go. The Disability Resource Center Coordinator can be contacted and will review any situations on a case by case basis where there is anticipation of potential risk for the individual with the disability, service animal, other students, etc.

END OF POLICY

APPROVALS

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| ARC Committee - if appropriate | Date |
| General Council | Date |
| College Council - first reading | Date |
| College Council - second reading | Date |
| President’s Council - if appropriate | Date |