

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY	POLICY	Date: 10/03	No. P-56
		Replaces: 9/00	

SUBJECT: Pets/Service Animals on Campus

COVERAGE: All University faculty, staff, and students

OBJECTIVE: To describe the university's position on the presence of pets/service animals on campus.

POLICY: The purpose of this policy is to ensure that individuals requiring service animals on campus are well supported and that the university continues to provide a safe and healthful educational environment for everyone on campus.

The University prohibits individuals from bringing dogs or other pets or animals inside any university-controlled building, except for research animals or service animals. This policy applies to all university-controlled grounds and spaces. This includes, but is not limited to, residence halls, other living units, academic buildings, faculty and administrative offices, and outdoor spaces on campus.

Local, state and federal laws regulate the use of service animals at Niagara University locations and/or events. In accordance with these laws, *bona fide* service animals may accompany students, employees, and visitors with disabilities to all Niagara University events, activities, and locations.

Definitions

- **Service Animal** - A *bona fide* service animal is any animal that is specially trained and certified to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, and which accompanies that person on a daily basis to assist them with the activities of daily living, e.g., guide dog.
- **Pet** - A domesticated animal (e.g., dog, cat, ferret, snake, bird) kept for pleasure or companionship. Pets are not permitted in University facilities or events
- **Partner/handler** - A person with a service animal or pet.

Requirements for all Service Animals and/or their Partners/Handlers

- **Vaccination:** The animal must be immunized against diseases common to that type of animal. Other animals must have had the appropriate vaccination series for the type of animal.
- **Health:** The animal must be in good health.

- Leash: The animal must be on a leash at all times.
- Under Control of Partner/Handler: The partner/handler must be in full control of the animal at all times.
- Cleanup Rule: The partner/handler must clean up after the animal, including voided waste.

Circumstances Under Which Approved Animals Can Be Removed From Campus

Service animals may be removed or restricted at a Niagara University location or event for reasons of disruption, health, uncleanness, and safety. For example, a partner/handler will be asked to remove the animal from the facility or event if the animal is ill and/or when that animal's behavior poses a direct threat to the health or safety of other persons and/or animals.

Areas Off-Limits to Service Animals

Animals may be restricted from certain areas of the campus when such restriction is governed by law.

Liability

The partner/handler of any pet or service animal present at any Niagara University location or event is personally responsible for any damage to property and/or harm to others caused by the animal while at a Niagara University facility or sponsored event.

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SUBJECT: Service Animals on Campus

RESPONSIBILITY

ACTION

Faculty/Staff member

Notifies the Office of Human Resources of the need for a service animal on campus.

Provides appropriate documentation that this accommodation is required due to a disability.

Provides appropriate documentation that the animal is properly trained, certified, in good health and current with all required vaccinations.

Registers the service animal with Niagara University. (Refer to the service animal registration form.)

Human Resources

Notifies appropriate University departments on a need to know basis.

Faculty/Staff Member

Assumes full responsibility for informing members of the campus community about his/her need for this accommodation.

Student

Notifies the Coordinator of Specialized Support Services of the need for a service animal on campus.

Provides appropriate documentation that this accommodation is required due to a disability.

Provides appropriate documentation that the animal is properly trained, certified, in good health and current with all required vaccinations.

Registers the service animal with Niagara University.
(Refer to the service animal registration form.)

Coordinator of Specialized
Support Services

Notifies Student Life, Facilities Management,
and other appropriate University departments on a
need to know basis.

Student

Assumes full responsibility for informing members of
the campus community about his/her need for this
accommodation.

Requirements for all Animals and/or their Partners/Handlers

Identification and other tags: The animal must have tags or some other method of identification indicating ownership and rabies clearances. Dogs must wear rabies vaccination tag.

Under Control of the Partner/Handler: The partner/handler must be in full control of the animal at all times. The animal must be on a leash at all times. The care and supervision of a service animal is the sole responsibility of its partner/handler. The animal must be maintained and used at all times in ways that do not create safety hazards for other persons.

Health and Vaccinations: The animal must be clean and in good health. Animals to be housed in campus housing must have an annual clean bill of health from a licensed veterinarian. Dogs must have had a general maintenance vaccination series against rabies, distemper and parvo virus. Other animals must have had the appropriate vaccination series for the type of animal. Proof of vaccinations must be filed with either the Director of Human Resources or Coordinator of Specialized Support Services.

Cleanup Rules:

- Always carry equipment and bags sufficient to clean up the animal's feces.
- Properly dispose of the feces.
- Persons who are not physically able to pick up and dispose of feces are responsible for making all necessary arrangements for assistance. The University is not responsible for these services.

Training Certification: If an animal is certified by a training program stating that the animal has successfully completed training, a copy of the certificate must be filed with either Human Resources or the Coordinator of Specialized Support Services.

Circumstances Under Which Approved Animals Can Be Removed From Campus: Service animals may be removed or restricted at a Niagara University location or event for reasons of disruption, health, uncleanness, safety, and/or failure to register the animal. For example, a partner/handler will be asked to remove the animal from the facility or event if the animal is ill and/or when that animal's behavior poses a direct threat to the health or safety of other persons and/or animals.

Areas Off-Limits to Animals: Animals may be restricted from certain areas of the campus when such restriction is governed by law.

Liability: The partner/handler of any pet or service animal present at any Niagara University location or event is personally responsible for any damage to property and/or harm to others caused by the animal while at a Niagara University facility or sponsored event.

Authorization to Release Information: By signing this form, the partner/handler authorizes the Director of Human Resources or the Coordinator of Specialized Support Services to notify appropriate campus personnel/offices of the presence of the animal and any special circumstances relevant to service animal usage on campus.

I, _____, agree to abide by the requirements listed above which outline my responsibilities while utilizing a service animal at Niagara University.

Signature, Partner/Handler

Date

Signature, Director, Human Resources

Date

Signature, Coordinator, Specialized Support Services

Date