

SERVICE ANIMAL PROCEDURE

I. Purpose

Ferris State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities and fulfilling its responsibilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act as Amended (ADAAA), and the Michigan Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act (MPDCRA). This procedure guides the use of service animals on campus by persons with disabilities

II. Procedure Statement

Persons with disabilities may be accompanied by working service animals on the campus of Ferris State University consistent with the provisions of this procedure. As permitted, people using a service animal may be asked:

- If the service animal is required because of a disability, and
- What work or task the animal is trained to perform. 28 CFR 35.136(f).

III. Definitions

Disability: With respect to an individual, a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of major life activities; a record of such an impairment; or being regarded as having such an impairment. 28 CFR 35.104.

Service Animal: 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. 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, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, pulling a wheelchair, retrieving items, etc. 28 CFR 35.104.

IV. Required Documentation

Veterinary verification that the animal has all veterinary recommended vaccinations to maintain the animal's health, and consistent with state/county/municipal law regarding immunizations and vaccinations for animals.

V. Service Animal Use on Campus

Individuals with disabilities shall be permitted to be accompanied by their service animals in all areas of the University's facilities where members of the public, participants in services, programs or activities, or invitees, as relevant, are allowed to go. 28 CFR 35.136(g).

For use of a service animal by a resident or potential resident in University housing, please contact Residential Life, (231) 591-3745.

- A. The care and supervision of a service animal is the responsibility of the individual who uses the animal's service. The individual using the animal's service is responsible for ensuring the cleanup of all animal waste. University Grounds/Maintenance and Housing staff may designate animal toileting areas.

VI. Removal/Exclusion of Service Animals

The University may prohibit the use of a service animal, or ask that a service animal be removed from University grounds or facilities if the service animal is out of control and the service animal's handler does not take effective action to control it, the service animal is not housebroken, or upon a determination that the presence of the service animal would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity. 28 CFR 35.130(b)(7).

If the service animal is prohibited or removed, the individual with a disability will be given the opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without having the service animal on the premises. 28 CFR 35.136.

VII. Interacting with Service Animals

Service animals work and perform tasks and are not pets. Accordingly, Disabilities Services recommends that members of the University community adhere to the following best practices when interacting with service animals:

- Do not touch or feed a service animal unless invited to do so;
- Do not deliberately distract or startle a service animal, and;
- Do not separate or attempt to separate a service animal from the individual using the animal's service.

VIII. Exceptions

Individuals wishing to request a modification or exception to this procedure as a reasonable accommodation should contact Disabilities Services at (231) 591-3057, or disabilities@ferris.edu.

IX. Request for Reconsideration Procedure

Disputes or disagreements about a disability determination, appropriateness of an accommodation, service quality, or a service animal removal/exclusion should first be raised with Disabilities Services. If the matter cannot be resolved, a request for reconsideration form should be submitted to Dr. William Potter, Dean, University, 820 Campus Drive, ASC 1016, Big Rapids, MI 49307.

X. Implementation

Disabilities Services is responsible for implementing this procedure. Success requires the cooperation of all students, staff, and faculty.

January 17, 2011