



PROVIDENCE  
COLLEGE

<b>Policy Title:</b>	<b>Service Animal Policy</b>
<b>Applicability:</b>	<b>College-wide</b>
<b>Oversight Department:</b>	<b>Office of Public Safety</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>	<b>The purpose of this policy is to provide reasonable accommodations for certain individuals pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act while maintaining a safe and healthy environment for the College community, its visitors, and guests.</b>
<b>Effective Adoption Date:</b>	<b>February 2, 2009</b>
<b>Revision Date:</b>	<b>June 5, 2023</b>

## **I. Purpose & Scope**

This Policy sets forth Providence College's (the "College") rules, guidelines and requirements for all Service Animals on the College's property. This Policy applies equally to any and all Service animals on the College's property that are owned by the College's students, employees, and any third party.

## **II. Service Animals Subject to this Policy**

A "Service Animal" is a dog that is trained to perform specific tasks for an individual with a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.<sup>1</sup>

A "Service Animal in Training" is a dog in training to become a Service Animal when the animal is accompanied by a person who is training the Service Animal and the animal is wearing a collar and leash and/or harness that identifies the animal as a Service Animal in training.

Any other species or type of animal will not be considered a Service Animal.

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<sup>1</sup> In limited circumstances, a miniature horse may be considered a service animal. The College will reasonably evaluate the presence of a miniature horse service animal on a case by case if the following requirements are met: (1) the miniature horse is housebroken; (2) the miniature horse is under the owner's control; (3) the College's facilities can accommodate the miniature horse's size; and (4) the miniature horse's presence will not compromise safety on Campus.

### **III. Type of Work or Tasks a Service Animal May Provide**

Work or tasks performed by a Service Animal must be directly related to its handler's disability. Examples of work or tasks performed by Service Animals 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;
- Providing non-violent protection or rescue work;
- Pulling a wheelchair;
- Assisting an individual during a seizure;
- Alerting individuals to the presence of allergens;
- Retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone;
- Providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities; and
- Helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors

Services that do not qualify as work or tasks performed by a Service Animal include:

- Crime deterrent effects; or
- The provision of emotional support, comfort, or companionship, often referred to as "therapy" or "companion" animals.

### **IV. Documentation**

The owner/handler of a Service Animal or Service Animal in Training is responsible for ensuring that the Service Animal is in compliance with all applicable state, local, and federal laws, including but not limited to: (1) possession of an animal license; (2) proper immunization and/or vaccination; and (3) wearing a current license and/or rabies vaccination tag. It is suggested that the Service Animal wear some type of recognizable vest or other identifiable symbol identifying it as a Service Animal.

The owner/handler of a Service Animal in Training must provide the College with evidence that the animal is a bona fide Service Animal candidate supplied by an authorized Service Animal organization, and is one that the Service Animal organization expects will return for specialized training when the animal completes training.

Although not required, individuals requiring a Service Animal are requested to notify Human Resources (if an employee) or the Dean of Students Office (if a student) prior to bringing the Service Animal onto College property.

A person seeking to keep a Service Animal in College housing is asked to notify the Dean of Students Office. To do so, the person must begin the process by filling out the College's Student Accommodations Application so that the owner can be assigned to the most appropriate housing location with their Service Animal, considering the owner's needs and preferences. The Accommodations Application can be accessed at this link: <https://providence-accommodate.symplicity.com/> and can be found on the Dean of Students webpage.

Although not required, individuals requiring a Service Animal at any College event on the College's campus are requested to notify College Event Management and Planning prior to bringing the Service Animal on Campus.

## **V. Requirements**

- (1) All Service Animals and Service Animals in Training on College property must be restrained by a leash or other appropriate device and must be under control of the owner/handler unless these devices interfere with the animal's work or the individual's disability prevents using these devices. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls. However, a Service Animal in Training must be on a leash at all times.
- (2) All Service Animals and Service Animals in Training in dwelling units of campus residences, campus buildings, or on campus grounds must be fully inoculated in accordance with state and local regulations.
- (3) The owner/handler must remove any fecal matter deposited by any animal brought onto College property or arrange for prompt removal of fecal matter if they are personally unable to perform the task.
- (4) All Service Animals and Service Animals in Training must have appropriate behavior while on campus. If there is anything about the condition, health, or behavior of any animal on campus that is deemed by the College to be a direct threat to the health or safety of any member of the College or to any other animal, if the owner/handle cannot control the animal, if the animal is disruptive, or if the animal is not housebroken, then that animal may be removed from College property.
- (5) Use of a Service Animal or Service Animal in Training may be prohibited if the use of the animal poses a threat to the health or safety of other persons.
- (6) Any Service Animal or Service Animal in Training found tethered, unattended, or abandoned may be humanely impounded in accordance with state and local regulations.
- (7) If a student wishes to have a Service Animal in any residence hall, the student's roommate(s) will be notified to inform them that the approved animal will be residing in shared assigned living space. All roommate(s) must sign an acknowledgement form allowing the approved animal to be in the residence with them. In the event that any roommate does not approve, either the owner/handler and the animal or the non-approving roommate(s) may be moved to different location.
- (8) The owner/handler is personally responsible for any damage or injuries caused by the Service Animal or Service Animal in training caused on College property. The

owner/handler must take reasonable precautions to prevent damage or injuries caused by the Service Animal or Service Animal in training.

## **VI. Areas Off-Limits to Service Animals**

While Service Animals and Service Animals in Training are generally allowed to go anywhere on College property that the owner/handler is allowed to go, there are certain areas where the presence of any animal fundamentally alters the nature of a program or activity or is disruptive. Accordingly, neither Service Animals nor Service Animals in Training are allowed in: (1) research laboratories; (2) mechanical rooms/custodial closets; (3) food preparation areas; (4) any room where protective clothing is necessary, for example, near a kiln, chemistry laboratory, etc.; and (5) any room where there are sharp metal cuttings or other sharp objects on the floor or moving machinery.

The College will evaluate whether an exception to Section VI of this Policy is warranted on a case-by-case basis. Any student seeking to bring a Service Animal in an area prohibited by Section VI of this Policy may submit an accommodation request to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA) & Dean of Students. Any employee seeking to bring a Service Animal in an area prohibited by Section VI of this Policy may submit an accommodation request to the Office of Human Resources.

## **VII. Permissible Inquiries**

When it is not readily apparent that an animal is trained to do work or perform tasks related to a disability, the College may make the following inquiries to determine whether the animal qualifies as a Service Animal or Service Animal in Training: (1) Is the animal required because of a disability; and (2) what work or task the animal has been trained to perform related to the disability.

The College may not inquire about the nature or extent of a person's disability.

## **VIII. Encountering a Service Animal on College Property**

Service Animals are working animals and are not pets. Accordingly, the College asks that members of the College community and visitors follow these best practices when interacting with a Service Animal:

Individuals should **not**:

- Assume that the Service Animal is a pet;
- Pet/touch a Service Animal (petting distracts from their responsibilities);
- Restrict the individual's and the Service Animal's full participation in programs and activities of the College;
- Assume the handler may have visible disability or make assumptions about the necessity of the Service Animal;
- Ask the handler about their specific medical condition;

- Prioritize the needs of another individual over the needs of an individual with a Service Animal;
- Feed a Service Animal;
- Deliberately startle, tease, annoy, or taunt a Service Animal;
- Separate or attempt to separate a Service Animal from his/her handler (service animals are trained to be protective of the handler);
- Hesitate to ask the handler if he/she would like assistance if the handler and animal seem confused about a direction in which to turn, an accessible entrance, the location of an elevator or ramp, etc.