

Service, Assistance, Emotional Support or Therapy Animals In Ohio State University Facilities

The University has a general “no pets” policy in all of its buildings. Pets are allowed on the grounds when leashed and under control. Service Animals are generally allowed to accompany their handlers in any building or public space where their handlers are permitted. Emotional Support and Visiting Therapy animals may be allowed in specified areas of the University with advanced approval.

All animals are the responsibility of their handlers. Animals must be house broken and be under their handler’s control (in proximity to the handler and responsive to commands, in harness, leashed or in a carrier). An animal’s behavior is considered the handler’s behavior; the animal will be held to the same basic standard of conduct as their handlers. If they are disruptive to university business or community behavioral expectations for educational, medical and residential environments handlers may be asked to correct the animal’s behavior or remove it from the environment.

Service Animals are generally allowed to accompany their handlers anywhere their handlers are permitted on campus (exceptions may exist in sterile environments and areas requiring protective equipment or clothing for access). If a Service Animal’s role is not apparent by observation you may be asked “Is that a service animal for a disability?” and “What service does it perform for you?”

If you have questions, would like assistance planning for a Service Animal at The Ohio State University, need to arrange local veterinary care, or have a concern about your treatment and access when accompanied by your Service Animal contact the L. Scott Lissner the Ohio State University ADA Coordinator Lissner.2@osu.edu, (614) 292-6207

Service Animals in Training are not recognized by federal law but are recognized by [Ohio Revised Code 955.43](#). Service Animals in Training must have a liability insurance policy provided by the nonprofit agency sponsoring the training. Typically, puppy rearing (under six months of age) focused on socialization and general obedience training is not considered Service Animal training.

If you have questions or need assistance with a Service Animal in Training at The Ohio State University please contact L. Scott Lissner the Ohio State University ADA Coordinator at Lissner.2@osu.edu, (614) 292-6207

Emotional Support Animals can be a reasonable accommodation to No Pet Policies in some circumstances. To establish reasonable accommodations please contact L. Scott Lissner the Ohio State University ADA Coordinator at Lissner.2@osu.edu, (614) 292-6207. You will need documentation from an appropriate professional that:

- Identifies you and states that you have a disability;
- Describes the animal; and
- Affirms that having the animal described alleviates identified impacts of your disability or serves a defined role in treatment;
- Identifies the Ohio State University services, programs or facilities you will be participating in;
- Affirms having the animal is necessary to effectively benefit from identified services, programs or facilities’

Denial of a request for an Emotional Support Animal or Assistance Animal may be based on insufficient documentation of disability or of the need for an emotional support animal as an accommodation in the context requested; issues related to zoonosis; maintaining a sterile field; or demonstrated behavioral concerns.

If you have questions, would like assistance planning for an Emotional Support Animal, need to arrange local veterinary care, or have a concern about your treatment and access when accompanied by your Emotional Support Animal contact L. Scott Lissner the Ohio State University ADA Coordinator at lissner.2@osu.edu, (614) 292-6207

Visiting Therapy Animals: Visiting Therapy Animals may be allowed access to specific facilities with permission from the program/office occupying the facilities. Read about the Wexner Medical Center’s Pet Pals program <http://wexnermedical.osu.edu/patient-care/patient-and-visitor-guide/volunteers/pet-pals> You can arrange assistance with this process by contacting L. Scott Lissner, the Ohio State University ADA Coordinator at Lissner.2@osu.edu, (614) 292-6207

Definitions:

Service Animal: As defined by the ADA (http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm) a service animal is a dog that has been trained to perform an **active** task that mitigates or partially mitigates the impact of the handler’s disability.

The ADA also recognizes similarly trained miniature horses as an alternative to dogs. Many of OSU's facilities are not suited as housing for miniature horses. If you use a miniature horse as a service animal please contact the ADA Coordinator's Office at ADA-OSU@osu.edu; (614) 292-6207 to discuss options.

Assistance Animals: Under Housing and Urban Development's Rules (Fair Housing Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=servanimals_ntcfheo2013-01.pdf)) Assistance animals include animals other than dogs, that provide active support like a Service Animal as well as animals that provide passive support that alleviates or at least partially mitigates an impact of a person's disability allowing them to benefit from OSU's programs and services. Animals providing these passive services are generally referred to as Emotional Support Animals (ESAs).

Emotional Support Animals: Assistance animals that provide **passive** support that partially ameliorates the impact of a disability are referred to as Emotional Support Animals (ESAs). Use of an ESA on campus is a potentially reasonable accommodation. Like all accommodations the university may ask that you document the need for the accommodation by an appropriate professional that states that you have a disability then confirms a history of past use of an ESA as an accommodation; identifies the basis for providing passive support (e.g. the ongoing relationship with the animal) or that it serves a defined role in the person's treatment plan, and states that it is necessary for full participation in or to benefit from particular programs or environments.

Service Animals in Training are recognized by [Ohio Revised Code 955.43](#). They must have a liability insurance policy provided by the nonprofit agency sponsoring the training and be engaged in learning service tasks (i.e. guiding or alerting). Typically puppy rearing (for dogs under six months of age) focused on socialization and general obedience training is not considered Service Animal training.

Visiting Therapy Animals: Animals in the company of their handlers that have been trained to make wellness, stress reduction or therapeutic short term visits and are made available to members of the university community on a transient basis in specific locations.

Pets: All other privately owned animals.

Handler: An individual with a disability who utilizes a Service or Assistance Animal or the owner of a Visiting Therapy Animal.

If you have questions or concerns related to these policies please contact the ADA Coordinator's Office at ADA-OSU@osu.edu, (614) 292-6207.