

POLICY ON SERVICE ANIMALS

The University of Redlands is committed to creating and sustaining a successful community of inclusive excellence as we prepare students to live, learn, and work among people who experience the world in fundamentally different ways. Within this framework, the University is committed to providing a supportive environment for students with disabilities as well as complying with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Fair Housing Act (and those statutes’ various amendments).

Service Animals are animals specifically trained to assist people with disabilities in the activities of daily living. The ADA defines a service animal as “an animal that does work or performs tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability (including psychiatric, cognitive, and mental).” In other words, a Service Animal is not just a helpful or well-behaved animal; it is trained to perform a task (or tasks) that a disabled individual needs to function safely and effectively. Other than dogs, the only type of animal which can be considered a service animal under the ADA is a miniature horse, though miniature horses may be subject to somewhat greater restrictions than Service Dogs. Given the rarity of the use of miniature horses in this role, in the rest of this policy the term “Service Animal” will typically be referring to dogs.

Service Animals may accompany the individual with a disability everywhere on campus except in rare situations where safety may be compromised or where Service Animals may interfere with the fundamental nature of the activities being conducted.

Students with disabilities who require a Service Animal on campus are encouraged to self-identify to the Assistant Dean of Academics & Student Life (subsequently referred to as the “Assistant Dean”), as soon as possible after deciding to enroll at the University, or deciding to bring a Service Animal to campus. If the student is living on campus, this is particularly important because roommates must be informed, as well as Residence Life & Housing and Facilities Management, among possible other departments. The Assistant Dean will provide information on expectations for the Service Animal to the student and communicate to other community members to ease the transition of the student.

The care and supervision of the Service Animal is solely the responsibility of the student owner. Service animals may not pose a direct threat to the health and safety of person on the University campus, cause physical damage to property, or fundamentally alter the nature of University operations. The Service Animal must be maintained (kept clean, free from fleas or ticks, etc.) and cared for. Local and state ordinances and laws regarding animals apply, including requirements for immunizations, licensing, noise, and restraint.

The Service Animal’s behavior, noise, odor, and waste must not exceed reasonable standards for a well-behaved animal. These factors should not create unreasonable disruptions for other resident students or students in classrooms. If the noise (whining, barking, aggressive behavior, etc.) is excessive as judged

by residence life staff, students or professors in classes, or people in eating areas, it is grounds to remove the Service Animal from campus.

The student is responsible for immediately cleaning up and properly disposing of the Service Animal's waste and is responsible for having the equipment to do so. People who are physically unable to accomplish this task are responsible for arranging for it to be done. The University retains the right to designate a particular area for the Service Animals to relieve themselves and/or the disposal of their waste.

The student must be in full control of the Service Animal at all times. Service Animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the Service Animal's work or the individual's disability prevents using these services. In the latter case, the individual must maintain control of the Service Animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.

The student, not the University, is responsible for the actions of the Service Animal including bodily injury or property damage. Students with Service Animals may be charged if additional cleaning or damage occurs as a result of having a Service Animal on campus. The student is expected to pay these costs upon repair or cleaning. In addition, the University retains the right to remove the Service Animal, at the owner's expense, should the Service Animal become a direct threat to the health and safety of others or violates these requirements in any way.

Service Animal in Training

The University of Redlands, as a long-term service in support of people with disabilities, permits a limited number of Service Animals in Training to be on campus and to access all parts of campus that *bona fide* Service Animal can access. The Service Animal in Training must be a) supplied by a service dog/animal organization authorized by the University and b) assigned to a student or employee who will give up the Service Animal for service to another individual after training is completed.

By signing this policy, I stipulate I have read over the requirements and recognize my responsibilities in having a Service Animal on campus.

Print Your Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Revised: August 2017