

## **Adelphi University Service Animal Policy**

Adelphi University recognizes the importance of service animals to individuals with disabilities. The following policy has been established to ensure that people with disabilities who require the use of a service animal as a reasonable accommodation are provided equal access to the University's programs and facilities by receiving the benefit of the work or tasks performed by such animals. Set forth below are specific requirements and guidelines concerning the appropriate use of, and protocols associated with, service animals. Adelphi University reserves the right to amend this policy as circumstances require.

### **Definition:**

#### **Service Animal**

**Service animals are defined as dogs and miniature horses that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.** Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task an animal has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Animals whose presence or sole function is to provide comfort, emotional support or make a person feel safe does not constitute doing work or performing a task and therefore does not qualify as a service animal under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Assessment factors as to whether dogs and/or miniature horses can be accommodated in a facility include the following provisions:

- (1) whether the dog or miniature horse is housebroken;
- (2) whether the dog or miniature horse is under the owner's control;
- (3) whether the facility can accommodate the dog or miniature horse's type, size, and weight;
- (4) whether the dog or miniature horse poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others that cannot be eliminated or reduced to an acceptable level by reasonable modification to other policies, practices and procedures.

#### **Service Animal Policy**

In compliance with applicable law, Adelphi University generally allows service animals in its buildings, classrooms, residence halls, meeting rooms, dining areas, recreational facilities, activities, and events when the animal is accompanied by an individual with a disability who indicates the service animal is trained to provide, and does provide, a specific service to them that is directly related to their disability.

## **Adelphi University Inquiries Regarding Service Animals**

Adelphi University will not ask about the nature or extent of a person's disability, require documentation of the disability, or require proof that the dog has been trained. However, Adelphi University may make two inquiries to determine whether an animal qualifies as a service animal in accordance with the ADA.

- (1) If the animal is required because of a disability and;
- (2) What work or task the animal has been trained to perform.

Adelphi University may not make any inquiries about a service animal when it is readily apparent that an animal is trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability (e.g., the dog is observed guiding an individual who is blind or has low vision, pulling a person's wheelchair, or providing assistance with stability or balance to an individual with an observable mobility disability).

## **Responsibilities of Handlers**

Students who wish to bring a service animal to campus are encouraged to contact Student Access office (SAO), particularly should academic accommodations be required. Additionally, students who plan to live in on-campus housing are strongly encouraged to inform Residential Life and Housing that they plan to have a service animal with them in student housing. Advance notice of a service animal for on-campus housing may allow more flexibility in meeting a student's specific requests for housing.

Handlers are responsible for any damage or injuries caused by their animals and must take appropriate precautions to prevent property damage or injury. The cost of care, arrangements and responsibilities for the well-being of a service animal are the sole responsibility of the handler at all times.

### **1. Service Animal Control Requirements**

- a. The animal should be on a leash when not providing a needed service to the handler.
- b. The handler should be in full control of the animal.
- c. To the extent possible, the animal should be unobtrusive to other individuals and the learning, living, and working environment.

### **2. Identification**

- a. It is recommended that the animal wear some type of commonly recognized identification symbol, identifying the animal as a working animal, but not disclosing disability.

### **3. Animal Etiquette**

To the extent possible, the handler should ensure that the animal does not:

- a. Sniff people, dining tables, or personal belongings of others.
- b. Block a fire egress aisle or passageway.
- c. Display any behaviors or noises that are disruptive to others, unless part of services being provided to the handler.

#### **4. Waste Cleanup Rule**

Cleaning up after the animal is the sole responsibility of the handler and must be addressed immediately. In the event that the handler is not physically able to clean up after the animal, it is then the responsibility of the handler to hire someone capable of cleaning up after the animal. The person cleaning up after the animal should abide by the following guidelines:

- a. Always carry equipment sufficient to clean up the animal's feces whenever the animal is on campus.
- b. Properly dispose of waste and/or litter in appropriate containers.
- c. Contact staff if arrangements are needed to assist with cleanup. Any cost incurred for doing so is the sole responsibility of the handler.

#### **Removal of Service Animals**

Service animals may be ordered removed by a University Public Safety Officer or other authorized staff member for the following reasons:

- a. An animal that is behaving inappropriately and the handler is unable to control the animal;
- b. An animal that is not properly housebroken;
- c. An animal that is determined to be a direct threat to the health and safety of others that cannot be eliminated or reduced by a reasonable accommodation. Such issues may include an animal that is deemed ill, unclean, or present in a sterile area such as a medical facility or lab.

Should an animal be removed for any of the above mentioned reasons, Adelphi University will work with the handler to coordinate any reasonable and appropriate alternative options to participate in the services, programs, and facilities without having the service animal on campus.

#### **Other Disabilities**

There may be circumstances where some people may be allergic to a service animal on campus that may create a barrier to access and qualify that individual for accommodations services. Adelphi University will consider the needs of both persons in meeting its obligations to reasonably accommodate all disabilities and to resolve the problem as efficiently and expeditiously as possible.

Specific questions related to the use of service animals on campus can be directed to the ADA Coordinator via e-mail at [garabedian@adelphi.edu](mailto:garabedian@adelphi.edu), or by phone at (516) 877-3145.

***Approved June 16, 2014.***