# Cascadia College Student Accessibility Services logo

# Service Animals on Campus

## Description:

***\*Note: The following policy applies to only Cascadia College students and guests. Staff and faculty can contact HR at 425-352.8880 for further information regarding Service Animals.***

Cascadia College understands the importance of Service Animals to individuals with disabilities. The college is committed to providing equal access to the student and their animal. Cascadia College will not “commit an act which directly or indirectly results in distinction, restriction, or discrimination … to all persons on the basis of the use of a guide dog or service animal by a person with a disability”

* [Washington State Legislature 49.60.218](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=49.60.218)

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Service Animals are permitted in college facilities. Service Animals are animals trained to assist people with disabilities in the activities of daily living. The (ADA) definition of a Service Animal is: "Any dog or miniature horse individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual or other mental disability. Examples of work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties."

* [ADA 2010 Revised Requirements,](https://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm) US Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division

## Guidelines:

To work on campus, a Service Animal must be specifically trained to perform a service function that the individual could not do independently or effectively. If a dog or miniature horse meets this definition, it is considered a Service Animal regardless of whether it has been licensed or certified by the state or local government or a training program. Service Animals are allowed in any building where a student is allowed. Students are not required to register the Service Animal with Cascadia although SAS can offer support with informing faculty that the Service Animal is permitted access. However, Service Animals whose behavior poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others or is disruptive to the campus community may be excluded regardless of training or certification.

### Responsibilities of the Owner/Handler

* The owner/handler must be in control of the Service Animal at all times. The care and supervision of Service Animals is the sole responsibility of the owner/handler.
* Financial responsibility for any damage associated to the college caused by the Service Animal including, but not limited to, cost of repairs, replacement or cleaning of facilities, or and bodily or personal injury caused to others by the Service Animal.
* The owner/handler must prevent the Service Animal from using Cascadia equipment or furniture (i.e. fountains, desk, chairs). If you’d like to store equipment for your Service Animal at Cascadia please contact SAS at 425.352.8128
* The owner/handler must always carry equipment sufficient to clean up any waste produced by the Service Animal. Waste need to be disposed of outside of the buildings in provided garbage cans, never inside the building. If the owner/handler is unable to perform these tasks, they are responsible for notifying the facilities help desk to request assistance. They can be reached at 425.352.5466.

## Definitions Relating to Service Animals

**Owner/Handler**: A person with a Service Animal

**Service Animal**: Dog or miniature horse, individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a disabled person. Service Animals are usually dogs, however other animals have been utilized as Service Animals.

**Miniature Horse**: Miniature horses are only permitted in a public area if they meet the following criteria and assessment factors specified by the ADA:

* Range in height from 24 inches to 34 inches measured to the shoulders and weigh between 70 to 100 pounds
* The miniature horse must be housebroken
* The miniature horse must be under the owner’s control
* Can the facility accommodate the miniature horse’s type, size, and weight
* Will the miniature horse’s presence compromise legitimate safety requirements necessary for safe operation of facility.

Note: This list is not fully inclusive and there may be numerous conditions for which a person has a Service Animal.

## Expectations

Service Animals are expected to behave in a certain manner which supports an inclusive learning environment at Cascadia College. If the Service Animals exhibits any aggressive or disruptive behavior, the owner/handler will be asked to meet with SAS Staff to determine how to best mitigate the Service Animal’s behavior. If there repeated instances of the aggressive or disruptive behavior, the Service Animal will be asked to not to come to campus until the behavior has been modified.

### Requirements of Service Animals and their Owners/Handlers

**Control**: Disruptive or aggressive animals may be asked to leave Cascadia College facilities. If improper behavior happens repeatedly, the Service Animal may not be brought into any facility until the handler takes significant steps to mitigate the behavior.

**Ill Health**: Service Animals that are ill should not be taken into public areas. An owner/handler with an ill animal may be asked to leave college facilities.

**Licensing and Tags**: Service Animals must be licensed and immunized according to local ordinances. Some examples of ordinances include, but are not limited to: “Dogs four months or older shall be vaccinated against rabies” or; “All license tags issued shall be securely fastened to a collar or other like harness which shall be worn by the animal at all times when off the premises of the licensed owner.

### Responsibilities for Instructors, Staff, and Students

* Allow a Service Animal to accompany the owner/handler on campus.
* Do not feed, pet, or deliberately startle a Service Animal.
* Do not separate or attempt to separate a handler from their animal.
* Report anyone attempting these behaviors to the Director of Accessibility & Student Support Services.

***Important Note: Please remember Service Animals are working when they are on campus, even if it appears they are not. Distracting a Service Animal could be potentially dangerous to the owner/handler.***

## Service Animals in Science Lab Classrooms

Service Animals can pose potential unique health and safety issues in a Science Laboratory classroom. An individualized safety assessment will take place to assess the nature of risk involved and the availability to modifications to minimize the risk. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) might be recommended to protect the Service Animal from possible hazardous chemicals, exposure to dangerous equipment, and other hazardous materials. Cascadia can provide the following PPE for a Service Animal in a Science Laboratory classroom :

* Booties to cover the services animal’s feet.
* Lab Coat
* Protective eye goggles
* Mats for the Service Animal to lay on when they are on the floor.

## Emotional Support Animals (ESA)

Emotional Support Animals specifically provide emotional support to an individual which alleviates one or more identified symptoms (anxiety, depression, etc.) of effects of an individual’s existing disability. Under the ADA, emotional support animals are not considered Service Animals but are considered a reasonable accommodations with the appropriate documentation.

There is a legal difference between a Service Animal and an ESA. Under the ADA, a Service Animal is defined as a dog or a miniature horse that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. Task(s) performed by the dog must be directly related to the person's disability. ESAs are not Service Animals under Title II and Title III of the ADA.

Students requesting an accommodation for an ESA must first meet with the Director of Accessibility & Student Support Services. Both parties will discuss the request in an interactive process and the student must submit documentation from a professional (physician, psychologist, psychiatrist, or other mental health professional) identifying the reason for the ESA. ESAs are expected to have their licensing, tags and immunizations up to date. This information is completely confidential and will be used only to help the college determine the appropriateness of the accommodations request. ESAs are also expected to behave in an appropriate manner when on campus and are subject to the same behaviors policies as Service Animals.