

# **Service Animal and Emotional Support Animal Policy**

## **Policy Overview**

OSU-Oklahoma City is committed to compliance with state and federal laws regarding individuals with disabilities. All inquiries regarding service animals on campus should be directed to the OSU-Oklahoma City Disability Services Coordinator at 900 N. Portland Ave, Student Center First Floor, Room 142; 405-945-3385, or by emailing [emily.cheng@osuokc.edu](mailto:emily.cheng@osuokc.edu). The University will determine, on a case by case basis, and in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, whether the animal is a reasonable accommodation on campus. In doing so, the University must balance the needs of the individual with the impact of animals on other campus patrons.

## **Service Animals Permitted on Campus**

Individuals with disabilities may be accompanied by their service animals on all parts of the OSU-Oklahoma City campus where members of the public or participants in services, programs or activities are allowed to go. By law, a service animal means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals. In some cases, the University may permit miniature horses on campus on a case-by-case basis, consistent with applicable law.

The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. Examples of such tasks include, but are not limited to: assisting an individual with low vision with navigation; alerting individuals who are hard of hearing to the presence of people or objects; pulling a person's wheelchair; or providing assistance with stability or balance to an individual with a mobility disability.

Federal law does not require the individual to provide documentation that an animal has been trained as a service animal. The University may, however, ask if the animal is required because of a disability, as well as what work or task the animal has been trained to perform.

## **Exceptions**

The University may exclude a service animal from campus if its behavior poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others or when its presence fundamentally alters the nature of a program or activity. Furthermore, the University may ask an individual with a disability to remove a service animal from campus if the animal is out of control and the individual does not take effective action to control it; or if the animal is not housebroken.

## **Responsibilities of Individuals with Service Animals**

The University is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal. Individuals with disabilities are responsible for the control of their service animals at all times and must comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including vaccination, licensure, animal health and leash laws. A service animal shall be restrained with a harness, leash, or other tether, unless an individual's disability precludes the use of a restraint or if the restraint would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks. If a service animal is not tethered, it must be otherwise under the individual's control, whether by voice control, signals, or other effective means.

Individuals are responsible for ensuring the immediate clean-up and proper disposal of all animal waste. Although the University may not charge an individual with a disability a service animal surcharge, it may impose charges for any damages caused by a service animal.

## **Emotional Support Animals**

Emotional support animals differ from service animals in that their sole function is to provide comfort and have not been trained to perform a specific job or task. Because they have not been trained to perform a specific job or task, emotional support animals are not considered to be service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Because OSU-Oklahoma City does not have housing or residential facilities, emotional support animals are not allowed on campus.

*Revised 9/29/16*