

08.01.01.R0.02 Service and Assistance Animals

Approved October 6, 2014
Next Scheduled Review: October 6, 2019



Procedure Statement

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply with applicable federal and state laws regarding the provision of reasonable accommodations for employees, students, and members of the public with disabilities.

Reason for Procedure

This procedure establishes the protocol for the use of Service and Assistance Animals on A&M-Commerce's campus and at off-site locations in accordance with A&M System Regulation *08.01.01 Civil Rights Compliance*.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1 GENERAL

- 1.1 The health and safety of A&M-Commerce students, employees, and the public is paramount. Therefore, each request for a Service/Assistance Animal accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis. Only in cases where the animal and relevant facts satisfy the requirements of this procedure, will the animal be exempt from rules that might otherwise restrict or prohibit the animal from being on university property.
- 1.2 While on campus, Service/Assistance Animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the Service/Assistance Animal's work or the individual's disability prevents using these devices. In such cases, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.
- 1.3 In all cases, the partner/handler of the animal is responsible for the animal's behavior and associated cost for cleaning, repairs and/or pest control. The exclusion of a Service/Assistance Animal from campus shall be based on at least one of the following reasons:
 - 1.3.1 The animal is not under the control of the partner/handler and the partner/handler does not take effective action to control it.
 - 1.3.2 The animal is not housebroken.

1.3.3 The animal poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others.

1.3.4 The animal's presence fundamentally alters the nature of a program or activity.

1.3.5 The partner/handler fails to comply with any of their responsibilities under this procedure.

1.4 Student Access and Success shall develop a process for Service/Assistance Animals for Students to supplement the requirements identified within this procedure.

2 INQUIRIES

When it is not obvious what service an animal provides, only limited inquiries are allowed. Specifically, the partner/handler may only be asked if the service animal is required because of a disability and what work or task has the animal been trained to perform.

3 ACCESS

3.1 Service Animals shall be allowed to accompany their partner/handler in all university facilities except where the presence of the animal may negatively affect the conduct of research or where there may be a danger to the Service Animal.

3.2 Assistance Animals shall be allowed only within the partner/handler's residence.

4 RESPONSIBILITY OF PARTNER/HANDLER

4.1 The Service/Assistance Animal shall be licensed and immunized in accordance with the laws, regulations and ordinances of the State of Texas, county and city authorities, if applicable.

4.2 The Service/Assistance Animal must be in good health and care. The care and supervision of the animal is solely the responsibility of its partner/handler. Animals that are ill must not be taken into public areas. A partner/handler with an ill animal may be asked to remove the animal from university premises.

4.3 The University may require the partner/handler to clean up after the Service/Assistance Animal relieves itself. A partner/handler with a disability, who physically cannot clean up after their animal, shall make all necessary arrangements for assistance.

4.4 Service Animals must wear some type of commonly recognized service animal identification symbol while in public.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

[Fair Housing Act \(FHAct\)](#)

[Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended \(Section 504\)](#)

[Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended \(ADA\)](#)

System Regulation [08.01.01 Civil Rights Compliance](#)

Definitions

Service Animals are defined as dogs or miniature horses that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.

Assistance Animals are defined as animals that work, provide assistance, or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, or provides emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's disability.

Appendix

Student Access and Success [Procedures for Service/Assistance Animals for Students](#)

Student Access and Success [Service Animal and Assistance Animal Protocols](#)

Contact Office

Employees and Third Parties

Students

Human Resources
903-886-5881

Student Disability Resource and Services
903-886-5150