

IACUC Policy on Service Animals

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a service animal as 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 for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.

The University recognizes the valuable contributions that service animals provide to the lives of individuals with disabilities. However, the presence of service animals within research/teaching facilities that conduct animal activities can pose risks to the service animal, the animals used in research/teaching, and to the integrity of the research/teaching activity itself. As such, entry of a service animal into the animal facility or laboratories conducting animal research or teaching activities must be preauthorized by the Attending Veterinarian, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee and any other applicable individual or committee necessitated by University policy. The University will make every reasonable attempt to accommodate the individual. This may include the provision of a human to perform the functions of the service animal.

Animals not covered under the ADA service animal definition are not allowed in research/teaching facilities that conduct animal activities.