

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

Service Animal Policy for Visitors

Overview

Yeshiva University is committed to providing individuals with disabilities equal access to University programs, services, activities and facilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Fair Housing Act where applicable, and other applicable state and city laws. This policy applies to visitors, guests, volunteers, and other participants in University programs, services, activities or facilities. It sets forth guidelines for service animals on campus and distinguishes service animals from emotional support animals and other assistance animals.

Please see the Service Animal Policy for Students found on the Office of Disability Services website at <https://www.yu.edu/student-life/resources-and-services/disability-services>.

What Qualifies As A Service Animal

A service animal is a 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 disability. The work or task performed by the service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. Service animals are working animals and are not pets.

Other than dogs, the ADA regulations include a separate provision for miniature horses that have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. Requests involving miniature horses will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, considering the animal's type, size, and weight; whether the animal is housebroken; whether the handler has sufficient control; and whether the animal's presence would compromise legitimate safety requirements.

A service animal may accompany an individual with a disability in all areas of campus where the individual is otherwise permitted to be, including areas open to applicants, visitors, guests, volunteers, program participants, or members of the public (as applicable), except where the service animal's presence would create a direct threat to health and safety that cannot be reduced or eliminated by reasonable modifications, or fundamentally alter the nature of a University program, service, or activity.

Coordination

Individuals are encouraged to contact the appropriate University office for coordination, planning, and information about campus expectations when advance coordination would be helpful or if they need accommodations in addition to the use of a service animal. Visitors, guests, vendors, contractors, volunteers, and other participants should contact the sponsoring department, event host, or other designated University contact.

What This Policy Does Not Cover

Animals whose sole function is to provide comfort, companionship, emotional support, or therapy are not service animals under the ADA, and are not covered by this policy. Emotional support animals and other assistance animals may be addressed separately under applicable housing accommodation policies, including the University's Emotional Support Animal Policy.

Similarly, this policy does not apply to employees, who should contact Human Resources in advance of bringing any animal to the workplace, and follow the protocol for requesting an accommodation on the basis of disability. The University will consider animal-related accommodation requests by employees or job applicants with disabilities, although it is not required to agree to accommodations that will cause undue hardship.

Permissible Inquiries

In public-facing context, where the need for the service animal is not readily apparent (e.g., a guide dog for a blind individual, or a dog pulling a wheelchair), University personnel may only ask two questions: (1) whether the animal is required because of a disability; and (2) what work or task the animal has been trained to perform. If the individual cannot or will not answer either question, then Universal personnel can decline admittance, but should invite the individual back without the animal.

University personnel should not ask about the nature or extent of the individual's disability, require medical documentation, require proof that the service animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal, or ask that the service animal demonstrate its work or task. Service animal "registries", certificates, licenses or registrations can often be obtained online for a fee, and have no relevance or significance under this policy.

Responsibilities of Handlers

The care and supervision of a service animal are solely the responsibility of the handler. Service animals should be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, and must comply with applicable local and state animal ordinances and laws, including requirements for immunizations, licensing, noise, and restraint.

A service animal may be excluded from campus or a particular area if the service animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it; the service animal is not housebroken; the service animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others that cannot be reduced or eliminated by reasonable modifications; or would fundamentally alter the nature of a University program, service, activity, or facility.

The handler, not the University, is responsible for immediately cleaning up and properly disposing of the service animal's waste as the University directs, and for having the equipment necessary to do so. Individuals who are physically unable to perform this task are responsible for making arrangements for it to be timely completed.

The handler must maintain control of the service animal at all times. Service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or task, or the handler's disability prevents their use. In those circumstances, the handler must maintain control through voice, signal, or other effective means.

The handler, not the University, is responsible for the actions of the service animal, including bodily injury or property damage. The handler will be responsible for reasonable costs associated with damage or additional cleaning caused by the service animal.

Allergies, Fear, and Competing Needs

Allergies to animals or fear of animals are generally not valid reasons to deny access or refuse service to an individual using a service animal. When a service animal creates concerns for another individual with

a disability or medical condition, the University will engage in an individualized assessment and seek to accommodate both individuals where feasible.

Questions and Concerns

Individuals with questions about this policy or concerns about access for a service animal should contact the appropriate University office. Visitors, guests, vendors, contractors, volunteers, and other participants should contact the sponsoring department, event host, or other designated University contact.