

Granite State College Service Animal Policy

Granite State College is committed to creating a diverse and welcoming campus environment for all students, staff, faculty and visitors. GSC recognizes the important role of service animals in the lives of people with disabilities.

Access rights afforded to users of service animals come with the responsibility of the individual with a disability to ensure compliance with all requirements of this Statement. The individual assumes full personal liability for any damage to property or persons caused by their service animal, and GSC shall not be responsible for any harm to a service animal while on campus, including but not limited to injury to the animal caused by pest management or lawn care products.

What is a service animal?

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a service animal is defined as a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. Only dogs and possibly miniature horses qualify as service animals. ([DOJ, Title II, Amended Regulation, 28 CFR Part 35.104](#))

The service animals' work or tasks must be directly related to the person's disability. For example, the service animal may assist an individual during a seizure, assist a low vision or blind individual with navigation, retrieve items such as medicine or a telephone, or interrupt impulsive or destructive behaviors.

A dog whose primary function is to provide comfort or emotional support does not qualify as a service animal under the ADA.

What if it is unclear if the dog is a service animal?

If it is not readily apparent that the animal has been trained to perform work or a task for a person with a disability, the ADA allows two questions to be asked by staff:

- (1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability, and
- (2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform.

Staff cannot ask about the person's disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card or training documentation for the dog, or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task. ([DOJ, Title II, Amended Regulation, 28 CFR Part 35.136\(f\)](#))

When is it allowable to exclude a service animal?

Staff may ask the individual with a disability to remove the service animal from the premises if (1) the dog is out of the control and the handler does not take effective action to control it or (2) the dog is not housebroken. ([DOJ, Title II, Amended Regulation, 28 CFR Part 35.136\(b\)](#))

What factors should be considered for allowing miniature horses on campus?

- The miniature horse is housebroken.
- The miniature horse is under the control of the individual with a disability.
- The specific facility can accommodate the miniature horse's type, size and weight.
- The miniature horse's presence in a specific facility will not compromise legitimate safety requirements necessary for the safe operation of the facility.

([DOJ, Title II, Amended Regulation, 28 CFR Part 35.136\(i\)](#)); all other service animal provisions, outlined in this statement, apply.

What are the expected behaviors of a service animal and the individual's responsibilities?

- It is expected the animal will remain under the direct control of the handler at all times, and be harnessed, leashed or tethered while in public places.
- The animal should respond to voice, signal or other effective means to control the animal, and remain near the individual (unless performing a task such as retrieving an item or checking a space).
- The individual is responsible for the care and supervision of the dog including anticipating the dog's need to relieve itself, cleaning up after the animal, and maintaining the grooming, health and local license of the dog.

How should staff and students respond to a service animal in public?

It is important to remember that service animals are working and you should first receive permission from the handler/individual to touch or interact with the animal. Do not ask personal questions of the individual about their disability or otherwise intrude on their privacy.

Where can I find more information on service animals and ADA?

An excellent publication can be found here:

http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm

For more information you can visit the ADA website at www.ADA.gov or call the ADA information line: 800-514-0301 (Voice) and 800-514-0383 (TTY).

Any questions or concerns?

Contact

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TTY Users: 7-1-1 or 800-735-2964 (Relay NH)