

King's College Service Animal Policy

General Policy and Description

King's College recognizes that Service Animals can play a vital role in facilitating the independence of individuals with disabilities. Service Animals are; therefore, not excluded from College property or activities so long as they meet the guidelines set in this policy. A service animal 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 service that the Service Animal is providing must be directly related to the functional limitation of the person's disability. A Service Animal does not have to be licensed or certified to qualify as a Service Animal. King's College considers an "animal in training" and its trainer to have the same rights and responsibilities as a person with a disability. Service Animals whose behavior pose a direct threat to the health and safety of others or are disruptive to the campus community maybe excluded, regardless of training or certification.

Partner/Handler/Team

A person with a disability using a Service Animal is called a Partner. A person without a disability with a Service Animal is called a Handler. Sometimes Partners and Handlers work together with Service Animals, while other times Partners work solely with Service Animals. A Partner or a Handler, and his/her Service Animal are called a Team.

Types of Service Animals

A Service Animal can either be a dog (any breed) or a miniature horse. The Service Animal must be trained to assist a person with a service directly related to the functional limitation of the person's disability. Service Animal examples are as follows:

Guide Dog- A dog trained to serve as a travel/tool assistant for persons who are blind or have severe visual impairments is a Guide Dog.

Service Dog- A dog trained to assist a person with mobility or health impairment is a Service Dog. The types of duties the dog may perform include: carrying, retrieving, opening doors, ringing doorbells, activating elevator buttons, steadying a person while walking, helping a person up after the person falls, etc. Service Dogs are sometimes referred to as Assistance Dogs.

Hearing Dog- A Hearing Dog is trained to alert a person who is deaf or has impaired hearing of sounds, e.g. someone knocking at a door.

Seizure Response Dog- A Seizure Dog is trained to assist a person with a seizure disorder. How the dog may serve the Partner depends on his/her needs. The dog may stand guard over the Partner during a seizure, or the dog may go for help. Some dogs have learned to predict seizures and warn the Partner in advance.

Dog in Training- In Pennsylvania, a dog being trained to perform as a Service Animal has the same rights as a fully-trained dog when accompanied by a trainer and identified as such.

Miniature Horse- Miniature Horse service animals are trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. The animals range in height from 24 inches to 34 inches measured to the shoulders, and generally weighs between 70 and 100 pounds. The miniature horse must be housebroken and under the owner's control. Other factors to consider: the facility must be able to accommodate the horse's type, size and weight; the horse's presence must not compromise legitimate safety requirements necessary for safe operations of the facility.

Procedures

A person who will make use of a service animal on campus must contact the College's Disabilities Services Coordinator and the Associate Dean of Students for Residence Life at least 30 days prior to bringing the animal to campus in order to register the intended use of the service animal so that the College can assure appropriate housing. The Service Animal must be vaccinated and licensed as required by state law and/or local ordinance. The Partner must provide documentation of the Service Animal's vaccinations and licensing if a Service Animal would need to live in campus housing; Disability Services and Residence Life needs to approve the placement in campus housing.

Campus Community Etiquette

Service Animals are working animals and are not considered pets. Regular members of the community should refrain from asking questions about the Partner's disability or tasks the Service Animal performs. A person should remember to interact with the person- not the animal. Therefore, the campus community members **SHOULD NOT**:

- Pet, feed, or distract the animal while working
- Startle, tease, or taunt the animal
- Prevent a Service Animal from accompanying its Partner to any place on campus except where specifically prohibited.

Restricted Areas

King's College has designated areas as off-limits to all animals due to health and safety concerns. These areas include research laboratories. Exceptions can be requested and will be determined on a case by case basis.

Conflicting Disabilities/ Health issues

The College is aware that at times, other persons may have a condition that may cause an allergic reaction or other concern when a Service Animal is in proximity. Persons who have issue with the Service Animal should direct the concern to the Disability Services Coordinator in the

Academic Skills Center. Action will be discussed to consider the needs of both parties and resolve the problem as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Owner Responsibilities

- Identification: The Service Animal should wear a harness, tag, or other gear that readily identifies its working status. If there is no such precaution, College officials may ask (1) if the animal is required because of a disability and (2) what work or task the animal has been trained to perform. In addition, Service Animals must wear an owner identification tag.
- Control: It is the responsibility of the Partner and/or Handler to control his or her Service Animal, and the College, its employees and agents are not responsible for the care or supervision of an animal. Furthermore, a Service Animal may be excluded from the premises if the Service Animal is out of control and the animal's Partner and/or Handler does not take effective action to control it; or the Service Animal is not housebroken.
- Damages: The Partner and/or Handler are financially responsible for the actions of their Service Animal including, but not limited to: bodily injury, house damages, and campus property damages.
- Leash and Clean-Up: A Service Animal must be on a leash at all times. The Partner and/or Handler must always carry equipment to clean up animal waste when on College property.
- License: All Service Animals must meet license requirements of Luzerne County or county of residence and wear those licensing tags. Records are maintained by the Disability Services Coordinator and shared with Campus Security. It may be shared with Residence Life if necessary.
- Health: A Service Animal must be clean and in good health. All Service Animals must have all veterinarian recommended vaccinations. These records are maintained by the Disability Services Coordinator. If the health or hygiene of a Service Animal is not maintained, the Service Animal may be excluded from campus.
- Removal from Campus: Animals may not be unattended for more than 8 consecutive hours and must be removed from campus during breaks or other extended periods if the Partner is not on campus.

Exclusion

If for any reason a Service Animal is excluded from campus for a short-term or long-term period, the individual with a disability who uses the Service Animal will be given the opportunity to continue to utilize or participate in College activities without the Service Animal on premises.

Appeals Procedure

King's College has established procedures to address student concerns when a student believes his or her rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are not being appropriately addressed. See Student Handbook under **SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES** or the King's College website under **Academic Skills Center Disability Grievance Procedure**.

Training of Service Animal Policy and Agreement

King's College recognizes the importance of training service animals for the benefit of persons with disabilities. Thus, students, who wish to provide this important service and are committed to fostering a positive learning and living environment at King's College are required to follow this policy in registering and caring for a Service Animal in Training.

A King's College student, who desires to train a service animal on campus, is required to adhere to the protocols and procedures contained in this policy and agreement.

1. The student must meet with the College's Disabilities Services Coordinator and the Associate Dean of Students for Residence Life to review the content of this policy; especially regarding the standards for procuring a service animal in training and responsibilities in caring for the animal and the good of the College community.
2. King's College may use up to 30 working days (starting the day the student meets with the College's Disabilities Services Coordinator and the Associate Dean of Students for Residence Life) in order to do its due diligence in assuring that the provisions found in this document have been met by the student to determine eligibility to house a Service Animal in Training.
3. Students are not permitted to share a contract for the training of a service animal. The animal is the responsibility of a single student, who is entrusted with responsibility for the animal's behavior on campus.
4. Students are responsible for any damages caused by a Service Animal in Training, including to furniture, carpets and any other property belonging to the College or to another student.
5. If the College determines that the student is in violation of this policy or other College policies, the Service Animal in Training can be removed from the campus at the student's expense.¹
6. Before other types of Service Animals in Training can be brought to campus, the College reserves the right to verify that that the animal in question does not in any way infringe upon the safety, health or general well-being of any member of the College community.
7. Before a Service Dog in Training can be brought to campus the student must provide the College verification of the following: A) the dog is at least six months old; B) the dog has received all necessary vaccinations; C) the dog is properly licensed and has a dog tag; D) the dog is housebroken; E) a record of the trainings for the dog to date and a plan for future trainings have been arranged; F) the student understands his or her obligations related to the contractual arrangement entered into with the agency or company from whom the dog has been procured; ²and G) the student understands his or her responsibilities related to this policy.

¹ Students are also required to adhere to the guidelines presented in sections entitled "Conflicting Disabilities/Health Issues," "Using an Assistance Animal in College Housing," "Owner Responsibilities," "Removal of an Assistance Animal," "Exclusion" and "Appeals Procedure" in the King's College Policy for Emotional Support (Assistance) Animals. The term "Service Animal in Training" substitutes for the term "Assistance Animal."

² Students are strongly encouraged to examine carefully all of the items presented in a contract regarding medical expenses, financial responsibility due to the loss or death of the animal, and other potential hidden fees.