

Assistance Animals in Academic and Research Settings

This document discusses when/how assistance animals are permitted in research and academic settings in the College of Life Sciences. Refer to the BYU "[Animals on Campus Policy](#)" for the full university policy.

Emotional Support Animals

Emotional Support Animals encompass comfort, therapy, and companion animals (including pets). Emotional Support Animals are not permitted in academic or research settings (i.e. classrooms, conference rooms, laboratories).

Service Animals

A Service Animal is a dog or miniature horse that is trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. Due to health and safety concerns, Service Animals are generally not permitted in restricted areas on campus, including:

- Research laboratories
- Classrooms/Labs with research/demonstration animals
- Areas where protective clothing is required
- Wood and metal shops
- Rooms with heavy machinery
- Food preparation areas
- Areas outlined in state law as being inaccessible to animals

Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis by contacting the College of Life Sciences Safety and Compliance Coordinator (rscholl@byu.edu). The person responsible for the restricted area has the final decision-making authority on whether to admit a Service Animal into the restricted area.

ON-CAMPUS EXCLUSIONS OF A SERVICE ANIMAL

A Service Animal may be excluded from campus or a particular portion of campus if one of the following occurs:

- The Service Animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of people or animals
- The Service Animal is not harnessed, leashed, or tethered or not under control through voice, signal, or other effective controls
- The Service Animal is out of control (e.g., running unleashed through a facility, touching others with paws or nose, barking, jumping, running away from the handler, etc.)
- The Service Animal is not housebroken
- The owner fails to immediately clean up any waste from the Service Animal
- The Service Animal is left unattended
- A facility cannot accommodate the type, size, or weight of a dog or miniature horse

DETERMINING IF AN ANIMAL IS A SERVICE ANIMAL

Federal laws prohibit asking about the nature or extent of a person's disability to determine if an animal is a Service Animal. However, when it is not readily apparent that an individual has a disability or that an animal is trained to perform a task to support a person with a disability, a university employee is permitted to ask the following questions to determine if an animal qualifies as a Service Animal:

- Is the animal required due to a disability?
- What task(s) has the animal been trained to perform?
 - Examples of work or tasks that a service animal may perform:
 - Assisting individuals who are vision impaired with navigation
 - Alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds
 - Pulling a wheelchair
 - Assisting an individual during a seizure
 - Alerting individuals to the presences of allergens
 - Retrieving items such as cell phones or medicine
 - Providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability
 - Assisting individuals with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors

If an animal handler reports that an animal is required due to the handler's disability and has been trained to perform tasks to assist the handler, then the animal qualifies as a Service Animal. If the animal handler cannot answer yes to both of those questions, then the animal may be excluded from campus programs and activities.

Individuals who misrepresent their animals as Service Animals may be subject to discipline by the University and/or punishment under applicable law.

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS FOR ANIMALS ON CAMPUS

Faculty, staff and students in the College of Life Sciences should contact the College Safety and Compliance Coordinator (rscholl@byu.edu) with questions or concerns about animals in buildings, classrooms, offices, or research labs.