

GOSHEN COLLEGE SERVICE ANIMAL POLICY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Goshen College is committed to providing a supportive and inclusive environment for students with accessibility needs. Goshen College is committed to complying with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Fair Housing Act.

I. Definition of Service Animals

Service animals are animals specifically trained to assist people with disabilities in the activities of daily living. The ADA, as amended, defines a service animal as “an animal that does work or performs tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability (including psychiatric, cognitive, and mental).”

Emotional support animals, comfort animals, and therapy dogs are not service animals and are addressed in the College’s Emotional Support Animal Policy. Other than dogs, the only type of animal that can be considered a service animal under the ADA is a miniature horse, though miniature horses may be subject to somewhat greater restrictions than Service Dogs. Given the rarity of the use of miniature horses as service animals, in the rest of this policy, “Service Dogs” will be used when referring to service animals.

II. Access to College Grounds and Facilities

A Service Dog may accompany the individual with a disability everywhere on campus except in rare situations where safety may be compromised or where a Service Dog may interfere with the fundamental nature of the activities being conducted.

III. Procedures for notifying the College of a Service Dog on Campus

Students with disabilities who require a Service Dog on-campus are requested to self-identify as a person with a disability to the Director of the Academic Success Center (ASC) as soon as possible after deciding to enroll at the College. The ASC Director will provide information on expectations for the Service Dog to the student and, as deemed appropriate by the student, communicate to other college community members to ease the transition of the student.

For students living in campus housing with a Service Dog, the College requests that the student provide as much advance notice as possible prior to the desired move-in date so that College can best accommodate the student and the animal. A meeting may be arranged between the student, the ASC Director, and a Residential Life staff member to discuss how to best accommodate the student and the Service Dog in the campus community.

IV. Owner’s Responsibilities for Service Dog

The care and supervision of the Service Dog is solely the responsibility of the student (Owner). Service Dogs may not pose a direct threat to the health and safety of persons on the college campus, cause physical damage to property, or fundamentally alter the nature of the College operations. The Owner, not the College, is responsible for the actions of the Service Dog including bodily injury or property damage. The Service Dog must be maintained (fed and watered, kept clean, free from fleas or ticks, etc.).

- A. The Owner must abide by current city, county, and state ordinances, laws, and/or regulations pertaining to licensing, vaccination, and other requirements for animals. It is the Owner’s responsibility to know and understand these ordinances, laws, and

regulations. Goshen College has the right to require documentation of compliance with such ordinances, laws, and/or regulations, which may include a vaccination certificate.

- B. The Service Dog's behavior, noise, odor and waste must not exceed reasonable standards for a well-behaved animal. These factors should not create unreasonable disruptions for other residents. If the noise (whining or barking) is excessive as judged by Residence Life staff, it is grounds to remove the Service Dog from campus. Service Dogs may be excluded from the college campus if the Service Dog behaves in an unacceptable way and/or the Owner does not control the Service Dog. Uncontrolled barking, jumping on other people, snapping or biting, or running away from the handler are some examples of unacceptable behavior for a Service Dog.
- C. The Owner is responsible for immediately cleaning up and properly disposing of the Service Dog's waste and is responsible for having the equipment to do so. People who are physically unable to accomplish this task are responsible for arranging for it to be done. The College will designate a particular area for the Service Dogs to relieve themselves and/or for the disposal of their waste.
- D. The Owner must be in full control of the Service Dog at all times. Service Dogs must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the Service Dog's work or the individual's disability prevents using these devices. In the latter cases, the Owner must maintain control of the Service Dog through voice, signal, or other effective controls.
- E. Service Dogs may not be left overnight in College Housing to be cared for by any individual other than the Owner. If the Owner is to be absent from his/her residence hall overnight or longer, the animal must accompany the Owner.
- F. Goshen College personnel shall not be required to provide care or food for a Service Dog including, but not limited to, removing the animal during emergency evacuation for events such as a fire alarm. Emergency personnel will determine whether to remove the animal and may not be held responsible for the care, damage to, or loss of the animal.
- G. Any suspected or observed issues related to animal abuse or neglect will be reported to the proper investigatory authorities and may subject the Owner to college disciplinary action as well.
- H. Students with Service Dogs are likely to be charged if additional cleaning or damage occurs as a result of having the Service Dog on campus. The Owner is expected to pay these costs upon repair or cleaning.

V. Removal of Service Dogs

The College may require the individual to remove the animal from College housing within 48 Hours, if:

1. the Service Dog poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others;
2. the Service Dog's presence results in a fundamental alteration of a College program;
3. the Service Dog is disruptive and not under the control of the Owner, including causing excessive property damage beyond reasonable wear and tear.

Goshen College will base such determinations upon the consideration of the behavior and history of the particular animal at issue, and not on speculation or fear about the harm or damages an animal may cause. Any removal of the animal will be done in consultation with the ASC Director and may be appealed to the Academic Dean in writing within two working days. The Owner will be afforded all rights of due process and appeal as outlined in that process. The Dean will respond within seven working days.

The Owner should provide the name of an emergency contact person (someone other than a student in residence) to accept and care for the animal in case of emergency or in the event it needs to be removed from College housing.

I have read and understand this policy:

Name _____ Date _____

Emergency Contact Person:

Name _____

Address _____

Home or Cell Phone _____ Email: _____

Service Dog information:

Breed and color _____

Name _____

Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability? (circle one): Yes No

What work or task(s) has the dog been trained to perform? _____

More information: https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html