



Southwest Baptist UNIVERSITY

Service Animal Guidelines

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the most recent guidance from the Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding service animals, Southwest Baptist University (SBU) suggests the following guidelines for service animals on campus.

Definition of Service Animal

Service animals are defined by ADA and DOJ as “dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person’s disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA”. (*Final Regulations Implementing the ADA, Federal Register, September 15, 2010*)

Handler’s Responsibilities

1. Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal’s work or the individual’s disability prevents using these devices. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.
2. The handler is financially responsible for the actions of the approved service animal. These actions include bodily injury and/or property damage and handlers must take appropriate precautions to prevent injury and/or property damage. Any damage to SBU property caused by the service animal or above and beyond normal maintenance cleaning will be charged to the handler’s SBU student account.
3. At all times, the cost of care and maintenance of health and well-being are the sole responsibility of the handler. Service animals must meet all local ordinances regarding vaccinations and proper licensure.
4. Out of courtesy to others, as much as possible the handler should ensure that the service animal does not approach and sniff other individuals, dining tables, or the personal belongings of others.
5. The handler must assure that the service animal does not block identified fire/emergency exits.

6. It is the handler's responsibility to assure that the service animal does not display behaviors or noises that are deemed disruptive to others, unless said noise/behaviors are part of the needed disability service to the handler.
7. Waste cleanup is the sole responsibility of the handler. If the handler is not physically capable of cleaning up after the service animal, the handler must hire someone who is physically capable and incur the cost of such hire. Service animal waste cleanup should include appropriate waste clean-up equipment and proper disposal of waste in an appropriate container. An appropriate container is an outside receptacle (i.e. dumpsters).

Service Animals in Residence Halls and on campus

Service animals may travel freely with their handler throughout the Residence Halls and university property. SBU may restrict the use of Service Animals in certain locations based on health and safety restrictions. Restricted areas may include, but are not limited to, the following areas: custodial closets, boiler rooms, facility equipment rooms, research laboratories, classrooms with research/demonstration animals, areas where protective clothing is necessary, sterile environments, and areas outlined in state law as being inaccessible to animals.

Removal of Service Animal

Service animals may be removed from SBU premises if:

- (1) The service animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it. If improper animal behavior happens repeatedly, the handler may be prohibited from bringing the animal into any university facility until the handler can demonstrate that s/he has taken significant steps to mitigate the behavior.
- (2) The service animal is not housebroken.
- (3) The service animal is a direct threat. A handler may be directed to remove an animal SBU determines to be a substantial and direct threat to the health and safety of individuals. This may occur due to an extremely ill animal, or the presence of an animal in a sensitive area such as a medical facility, sterile environments, and research laboratories.

When there is a legitimate reason to ask that a service animal be removed, SBU staff will work with the person with the disability to obtain goods or services without the animal's presence.

By my signature below, I verify that I have read and understand the Service Animal Guidelines outlined here.

Handler Signature

Date

Special Services Coordinator

Date