



Board Policy 506: Service and Assistance Animals

Students

Iowa Valley Community College District prohibits the presence of animals on its campuses, including district-owned vehicles, with the exception of animals used for academic purposes (e.g., laboratory and instructional use), service animals and service animals-in-training, and assistance animals (limited to campus housing only and with prior approval). Service/service animals-in-training and assistance animals are not pets, and the distinctions between these types of animals are provided below. An exception to this policy applies to outside groups that rent facilities for events at the Hamilton Campus that may allow the presence of animals at events. Contracts with the individual outside groups will specify their animal policy, i.e., dogs.

Per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a Service Animal is defined as a dog (in some cases, a miniature horse) that is individually trained to work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability. For an individual to use a service animal: (1) the individual must have a disability as defined by the ADA and/or state law that requires use of a service animal; and (2) the accompanying animal must be trained to do work or perform tasks for the qualified individual. Examples of such work/tasks include: Guiding people who are blind; alerting those who are deaf; pulling a wheelchair; alerting/protecting a person 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. The work/task a service animal has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Note that an animal with a sole function of providing comfort or emotional support (i.e., an assistance animal, as defined below) does not qualify as a service animal under the ADA.

A Service Animal-in-Training means a service animal that is undergoing a course of development and training to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability.

An Assistance Animal works, provides assistance, or performs tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, or provides emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's disability. This definition aligns with the Iowa Civil Rights Act (ICRA), Fair Housing Act (FHA) and Section 504 of the U.S. Department of

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations, and for IVCCD purposes also includes those animals that may be identified by other names (e.g., therapy animals and emotional support animals). Assistance animals are not required to be individually trained or certified.

Approval of the use of assistance animals by the IVCCD Disability/Accommodation Services Office must be obtained by the owner/handler before such animals are allowed on the IVCCD campus. IVCCD may ask individuals who have disabilities that are not readily apparent or known to the IVCCD staff to submit reliable documentation from a health care provider or other qualified person consistent with state and federal law, which verifies the existence of a disability (without specifics on the nature of the disability) and disability-related need for the assistance animal. Cats and dogs are generally the most common types of assistance animals, but other animals may qualify and may be approved on a case-by-case basis.

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Legal Reference

Americans with Disabilities Act

Related Administrative Rules and Regulations

None

Revision History

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Formerly Board Policy 526