

SERVICE ANIMALS IN SANCTUARY - PROCEDURE

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), service animals are defined as “dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.” Examples include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, and pulling a wheelchair, among others. Service animals are working animals, not pets, and dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals.

OUUC allows service animals to accompany people with disabilities anywhere the general public is normally allowed to go.

OUUC requires that service animals are controlled by a harness, leash or tether, unless these devices interfere with the services they provide or the individual’s disability prevents them from using these devices.

If OUUC staff and volunteers are unclear about what service a particular animal may provide, two questions may be asked:

Is the animal a service animal because of a disability?

What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

The staff cannot make any inquiries into the person’s disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card or training documentation for the animal, or ask that the animal demonstrate its ability or perform the work or task.

Access will not be denied to people using service animals because of allergies or fear of animals.

OUUC staff and volunteers can ask that a service animal be removed if it is out of control and the handler cannot regain control; or the animal is not housebroken.

