

TRINITY INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

TIU POLICY: Service Animal Policy
TIU POLICY #: P-330, P-909
STATUS: Approved, August 2013
Updated, August 2016

I. PURPOSE:

To specify policy regarding service animals on all campuses of Trinity International University (University).

II. SCOPE:

This policy applies to all members of the University community.

III. POLICY:

A. Definitions

1. Handler - a person with a disability that a service animal assists or a personal care attendant who handles the animal for a person with a disability.
2. Service Animals - any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability, and meets the definition of service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations. The work or tasks performed by the service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. Examples of these tasks include, but are not limited to:
 - Assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks;
 - Alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds;
 - Providing non-violent protection or rescue work;
 - Pulling a wheelchair;
 - Assisting an individual during a seizure;
 - Alerting individuals to the presence of allergens;
 - Retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone;

- Providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities;
- Assisting individuals with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors.

The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.

3. Comfort Animal - an animal that provides comfort, reassurance, social interaction and other emotional benefits. The animal does not have to be trained to provide comfort. A comfort animal is not considered a service animal.
4. Therapy Animal - an animal that provides affection and comfort and is specifically trained to be gentle and stable in stressful situations. Therapy animals are most often used in hospitals, nursing homes, mental health facilities, and children's settings. A therapy animal is not considered a service animal.
5. Animal-in-Training - includes puppies-in-training once they are old enough to remain under the control of the handler. The animal must be accompanied by a person who is training the service animal and the animal must wear a leash, harness or cape that identifies the animal as service animal-in-training. Any animal-in-training must be registered with Student Life. An animal-in-training is not allowed to reside in campus housing.

B. Policy

The University complies with the ADA in allowing use of service animals for students, employees, and visitors. Consequently, the University generally allows service animals in its buildings, classrooms, residence halls, meetings, dining areas, recreational facilities, activities and events when the animal is accompanied by an individual with a disability who indicates the service animal is trained to provide, and does provide, a specific service to them that is directly related to their disability. In general, service animals may accompany people with disabilities in all areas of the institution where the public is normally allowed to go.

The University may not permit service animals when the animal poses a substantial and direct threat to the health or safety of the University community or when the presence of the animal constitutes a fundamental alteration to the nature of the program or service.

The University will make these assessments on a case by case basis.

C. Procedures

1. Students - requests for service animal accommodations are determined by Student Life through an accommodation request and review process, in consultation with offices and

officials who may be involved in implementing the requested accommodation. In order to receive this accommodation, a student must:

- Have a disability as defined by the ADA;
 - Have a service animal that is trained to do specific tasks for the qualified individual. A service animal meeting the above definition is not required to be certified by a state or local government or animal training program.
2. Visitors - service animals accompanying individuals with disabilities are welcome in all areas of campus that are open to the public. Specific questions related to the use of service animals on the University campus by visitors can be directed to Student Life.

D. Requirements and Expectations

Requirements and expectations for service animal handlers and the University community are outlined as follows:

1. Handlers will:

- Register the service animal with Student Life;
- Comply with relevant dog control and licensing laws for animal rights and owner responsibilities;
- Make sure that service animals are current with immunizations and wear a rabies vaccination tag. Documentation of immunization record may be required;
- Be in full control of the service animal at all times. A service animal shall have a harness, lease, or other tether unless the handler is unable to use a harness, leash, or tether, or that the use of a harness, leash, or tether would interfere with the animal's ability to safely and effectively perform its duties;
- Make sure that the service animal is wearing a leash, harness, or cape that identifies the animal as a service animal when on duty on campus.
- Be responsible for the costs of care necessary for a service animal's well-being. The arrangements and responsibilities with the care of a service animal is the sole responsibility of the handler at all times, including regular bathing and grooming.
- Be responsible for independently removing or arranging for the removal of the service animal's waste. Cleaning up after the animal is the sole responsibility of the handler. In the event that the handler is not physically able to clean up after the animal, it is then the responsibility of the handler to hire someone capable of cleaning up after the animal.
- Be responsible for any damage or injuries caused by their animals and must take appropriate precautions to prevent property damage or injury.
- Ensure that the service animal responds to voice or hand commands at all times and be unobtrusive to other individuals and to the learning, living, and working environment.

2. The University community will:

- Allow a service animal to accompany the handler at all times on campus except where service animals are specifically prohibited due to health, environmental, or safety hazards (e.g. research laboratories, mechanical rooms, etc.)
- Always speak to the handler first, remembering that the service animal is working and is not a pet.
- Refrain from petting, feeding, or deliberately startling a service animal, and will not offer treats to the service animal.
- Immediately report any disruptive behavior of a service animal to Safety and Campus Services, and will not attempt to separate a handler from their service animal.
- Direct any questions regarding service animals or their handlers to Student Life.

E. Removal of Service Animals

Service animals may be ordered to be removed for the following reasons:

1. Out of control animal - a handler may be directed to remove an animal that is out of control and/or the handler does not take effective action to control it. If the improper animal behavior happens repeatedly, the handler may be prohibited from bringing the animal into any University facility until the handler can demonstrate that significant steps have been taken to mitigate the behavior. Mitigation may include muzzling a barking animal, obtaining refresher training for both the animal and the handler, or other appropriate measures.
2. Non-housebroken animals - a handler may be directed to remove an animal that is not housebroken.
3. Direct threat - a handler may be directed to remove an animal that the University determines to be a substantial and direct threat to the health and safety of individuals. This may occur as a result of a very ill animal, a substantial lack of cleanliness of the animal, or an animal that displays vicious behavior towards people.

F. Conflicting Disabilities

Some people may have allergic reactions to animals that are substantial enough to qualify as disabilities. The University will consider the needs of both parties in meeting the obligation to reasonable accommodate all disabilities and to resolve the problem as efficiently and expeditiously as possible. Per ADA regulations, allergies and fear of dogs are not valid reasons for denying access or refusing service to people using service animals.