

PROCEDURE

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| TITLE: | Service Animal Procedure |
| NUMBER: | 744 |
| AUTHORIZED BY THE PRESIDENT | 12/22/2015 |

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act¹ (ADA) State of Washington's Law against Discrimination², and the United States Department of Justice Revised ADA Regulations Implementing Title II and Title III³, and Washington Administrative Code 132U-52-010 (WCC Control of Dogs), service animals are permitted at Whatcom Community College (WCC) facilities for persons with disabilities.

The definition of service animals includes 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 an animal has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Animals whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA and are not permitted on campus.

Service animals-in-training are not protected under the ADA and require college permission from Access and Disability Services to enter campus facilities. For more information, please contact 360-383-3080.

For additional information regarding service animals, please see www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SERVICE ANIMAL HANDLER:

1. **Control:** The care, supervision, and control of a service animal is the responsibility of the handler. The service animal must be on a leash at all times unless doing so would impede the animal's ability to provide the needed task. The handler is responsible to ensure that others do not pet or feed the service animal.

It is the handler's responsibility to ensure the presence of their service animal is not disruptive to the learning and teaching environment as required by the [WCC Student Code of Conduct](#).

2. **Cleanliness:** The handler is responsible for ensuring the clean-up of all animal waste. If the handler is unable to collect and properly dispose of animal waste, the handler is responsible for ensuring an alternate person will handle this service. The College is not responsible for identifying the alternate or providing this service. The animal must not smell or appear ungroomed/unkempt.
3. **Health:** The service animal must be in good health. The service animal must have current vaccinations and immunizations against diseases such as the general maintenance vaccine series, which includes

rabies, distemper, and parvovirus. The service animal must wear a rabies vaccination tag and license in accordance with city and county regulations.

- 4. Identification:** WCC encourages the use of a vest or harness that identifies the working status of the service animal, as well as owner identification tags.

When it is not obvious what service an animal provides, only limited inquiries are allowed. Employees may ask two questions: (1) is the animal a service animal required because of a disability, and (2) what work or task has the animal been trained to perform? Employees may not ask about 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 to perform the work or task.

^{1, 3} http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm

² <http://www.hum.wa.gov/FAQ/FAQServiceAnimal.html>

