

Guidelines for Service Animals in Academic Teaching Laboratories and in Research Facilities

The following information is being provided to help ensure safety in laboratories and research facilities when approved service animals are present. For faculty and staff, approval for service animals is through [Human Resources](#). For students, the [Student Disability Resource Center](#) will make the determination for a service animal need and disability related accommodation in an academic teaching laboratory or in a research facility.

The outlined guidelines are provided to assist in accommodating the approved service animals in academic teaching laboratories or in research facilities. For teaching laboratories, the Teaching Assistant must be informed and establish the conditions. For a research facility, the Principal Investigator must be consulted.

Access considerations

Considerations for access of the service animal:

- What services will the animal provide during the laboratory course or time in a teaching research facility;
- Is there an acceptable alternative way of providing those services, such as a designated laboratory assistant;
- How does the animal interact with and/or alert its owner-student;
- What areas are safe or potentially hazardous for the animal;
- What are the potential hazards due to chemicals used and conducted operations;
- What protective equipment and/or clothing is appropriate for the animal;
- What is necessary to minimize or prevent negative impact on others;
- What emergency procedures are needed for the animal and its partner.

Consideration of others

Some people are very uncomfortable with certain animals, such as dogs, or have allergic reactions to certain animals. If there is a student with a service animal and these conditions exist with another student who is also enrolled in the same course, the course instructor should work with the students to schedule an alternate time for the course.

Location of the service animal

The student requiring a service animal in a teaching research facility or in a laboratory course must have a special mat that the service animal knows to remain on during the time the student is in the class. A spot should be found with the advice of the instructor for a location of such a mat, that it *will not present an obstruction* to other students' movement in the laboratory, and also is *within unobstructed eye-sight between the student requiring the service animal and the service animal*. If the student of the service animal does not have a mat, locate the animal in an area that is also in direct line-of-sight to the owner-student. Other conditions for the location include, but are not limited to the following:

- Free of chemical debris, dripping, spills, splashes;
- Chemicals on the floor or heavier-than-air vapors;
- Potential glass debris, broken glass, dropped glassware;
- Solids brushed off a bench;
- Noises; or
- Moving equipment.

Possible locations for the animal are:

- By the student's bench area in a recessed "wheelchair access" area;
- Under an unused laboratory bench or under a table;
- Against a wall and/or under a coat rack.

If the student of the service animal does not need the animal in an area that is in direct line-of-sight, the animal can be located:

- In a portable kennel outside of the laboratory or teaching research facility;
- In an adjacent room or office.

Safety equipment for the service animal

If it is determined that it is necessary for the service animal to be in an academic teaching laboratory or research facility, when safety equipment is required for the student, similar safety equipment would need to be provide to the animal as well. This would include:

- Protective foot booties;
- Protective laboratory coat;
- Safety glasses; and
- Any other personal protective equipment.

As with safety equipment required of students, it is the financial responsibility of the student to bear the costs of such devices for a service animal.