Service Animals on Campus

Date Adopted: 4/16/2010
Date Revised: 9/23/2011
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References: Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; California Civil Code Sections 54.2b, 54.6; 42 United States Code, Section 12101; Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Section 504; 28 Code of Federal Regulations

Sierra College recognizes service animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act and 28 Code of Federal Regulations, §35.136. Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person’s disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals.

- The Americans with Disabilities Act and 28 Code of Federal Regulations identifies miniature horses as service animals providing they have been trained to do work or tasks for the benefit of the individual with a disability.
- Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained are not service animals for the purpose of this definition.
- Service dogs in training are permitted but must adhere to all rules and regulations that apply to trained service animals.

Service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal’s work or the individual’s disability prevents using these devices. In that case the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.

When it is not readily apparent that an animal is trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability, staff may ask:
(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.

In cases of allergies or fear of animals, the District will make every effort to accommodate both parties.

A person with a disability will not be asked to remove his service animal from the premises unless: (1) the animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it or (2) the animal is not housebroken. When there is a legitimate reason to ask that a service animal be removed, staff will offer the person with the disability the opportunity to obtain goods or services without the animal’s presence.