DEAN COLLEGE
SERVICE ANIMAL POLICY

Policy Statement

Dean College is committed to reasonably accommodating students, employees, and visitors with disabilities who require the assistance of a service animal. Subject to the provisions of this policy, service animals will be allowed anywhere in the College where students, visitors or the public, as the case may be, are normally allowed to go. No reasonable service animal request will be denied so as to limit a person’s access to or participation in College facilities, programs or activities. This policy is aligned with the College’s broader mission to remove barriers that prevent qualified individuals with disabilities from enjoying the same employment, education, and other opportunities that are available to persons without disabilities.

Definitions

A “service animal” means a dog that is individually trained to perform work or tasks for a disabled person. The work or task must be directly related to the individual’s disability, such as guiding a person with impaired vision, alerting a person who is hearing impaired, pulling a wheelchair, or alerting and protecting a person in a medical emergency such as a seizure.

Determining Whether a Service Animal will be Accommodated

College employees may ask the handler only if the dog is a service animal that is required because of a disability and what work or task the dog has been trained to perform. If the work or task relates to a person’s disability, the service animal will be accommodated subject to the conditions of this policy. College employees may not ask about the person’s disability, request medical documentation of the disability, require a special identification card or other documentation for the service animal, or ask that the animal demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.

The College need not accommodate a service animal if:

- the owner cannot care for it;
- the owner cannot effectively control it;
- it is not housebroken;
- it would pose a direct threat to the health and safety of others;
- it would cause substantial physical damage to the property of the College or others;
- it would pose an undue financial and administrative burden on the College; OR
- it would substantially disrupt or fundamentally alter the nature of the College’s operations or some aspect thereof.
Responsibilities of the Handler

1. **Leash:** The person who requires the assistance of a service animal is responsible for keeping the animal harnessed, leashed, or tethered at all times, unless these devices interfere with the service animal’s work or the individual’s disability prevents using these devices, in which case the handler must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls. It is the responsibility of the handler to ensure that while the service animal is working, no other person touches or pets the animal.

2. **Care:** The person who requires the assistance of a service animal is responsible for:
   - feeding and otherwise caring for the animal;
   - properly disposing of the animal’s waste; and
   - maintaining the animal’s health and keeping up to date with immunizations/vaccinations.

3. **Responsibility for harm or damage:** The person who requires the assistance of a service animal is responsible for any harm or damage that the animal causes to persons or property.

4. **License and Tags:** To the extent required by federal, state, or local law, service animals must wear an owner identification tag along with other required tags. All dogs should be licensed.

5. **Health:** Service animals should be in excellent health. If a service animal is to live in residence, it must receive an annual clean bill of health from a licensed veterinarian. All vaccinations and immunizations against diseases common to dogs must be current, and the service animal must wear current rabies vaccination tags. Unhealthy service animals should not be taken into public areas. The College reserves the right to have an unhealthy service animal removed from College facilities.

Disability Services

Requests for accommodation and questions about this policy should be directed to the Disability Support Services office. Disability Support Services may be reached by phone at 508-541-1769.

Appeals Process

A person who is dissatisfied with a decision of the College concerning a service animal or assistance animal may file an appeal with the DSS Appeals Board by calling 508-541-1768.