

Service Animals and Emotional Support Animals on Campus
September 20, 2018

Information from OU Disability Resource Center

A true **service animal** (officially trained and certified) is allowed to go anywhere the public is allowed to go. They must be allowed in OU classrooms. They must be allowed at field placement sites. If a child at the field placement site is allergic to the service animal, the child will receive an accommodation. The allergy is not a reason to deny the service animal.

An **emotional support animal** is not officially recognized as an accommodation, no matter how well-trained. It can be barred from OU classrooms as well as from field placement sites.

From DRC Website (http://www.ou.edu/drc/students/policies#Assistance_Animal_Policy):

Documentation/Registration - Federal law does not require the individual to provide documentation that an animal has been trained as a Service Animal. Any employee with a need to know may, however, ask the individual presenting with or asking to use a Service Animal these two (and only these two) questions:

1. Is the dog a Service Animal that is required because of a disability?
2. What work or task the animal has been trained to perform?

If there are any concerns or questions related to the individual's response to these two questions, employees should contact the Disability Resource Center for further assistance.

NOTE: It is important that the University does not exclude an individual presenting with or asking to use a Service Animal based solely on the answers to the questions that the individual provides unless that animal is posing undue threat or harm to other individuals or is behaving in a disruptive manner. In those instances, University members may request that the individual remove the Service Animal from the area for a temporary period of time until the Disability Resource Center is able to assist. Employees must contact the Disability Resource Center as soon as possible with information about the individual and the incident.

Individuals with Service Animals are expected to contact the Disability Resource Center to identify the person and their animal. While registration is not mandatory unless accommodations are needed, individuals who use Service Animals are **required** to meet with a DRC team member who will collect basic information about the individual and the animal, such as the name of both the individual and animal, job or task the animal performs, and contact information of the individual. This information is used only for identification. Employees of the University follow expectations under V.B.2.

OU Disability Resource Center

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