



Ashland University Service Animal in Training: Policy & Agreement

Service Animal: As defined by the ADA (http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm), a service animal is a dog that has been trained to perform an **active** task that mitigates or partially mitigates the impact of the handler's disability. The ADA also recognizes similarly trained miniature horses as an alternative to dogs. Ashland University's facilities are not suited as housing for miniature horses.

Service Animals in Training are not recognized by federal law, but are recognized by [Ohio Revised Code 955.43](#). Service Animals in Training are dogs, and must have a liability insurance policy provided by the nonprofit agency sponsoring the training and be engaged in learning service tasks (i.e. guiding or alerting). Typically, puppy rearing (for dogs under six months of age) focused on socialization and general obedience training is not considered Service Animal training.

Service Animals and Service Animals in Training are generally permitted to accompany their handlers anywhere their handlers are on campus (exceptions may exist in sterile environments and areas requiring protective equipment or clothing for access). If a Service Animal's role is not apparent by observation, a handler may be asked "Is that a service animal for a disability?" and "What service does it perform for you?"

All animals are the responsibility of their handlers. Animals must be house broken and be under their handler's control (in proximity to the handler and responsive to commands, in harness, leashed or in a carrier). An animal's behavior is considered the handler's behavior; the animal will be held to the same basic standard of conduct as their handler. If they are disruptive to university business or behavioral expectations for educational and residential environments, handlers may be asked to correct the animal's behavior or remove it from the environment.

If you have questions, would like assistance planning for a Service Animal at Ashland University, or have a concern about your treatment and access when accompanied by your Service Animal contact the Student Accessibility Center at: au-sac@ashland.edu, (419) 289-5904.

Agreement:

I have read and understand my responsibilities as a handler for a Service Animal in Training as outlined above. By signing below, I agree to uphold all the expectations required and permit the Student Accessibility Center to discuss my role as a handler with faculty and staff as necessary. Should I fail in my responsibilities, I understand that I may need to remove the Service Animal from campus and/or I may be charged with a violation of the student conduct policy. I agree to bring any concerns regarding my role as a handler to the Student Accessibility Center.

Student Name (PRINT)

Student Signature

Date

Student Accessibility Center

Date