

## Guidelines Regarding Service Animals

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), and state law, New York University seeks to accommodate persons with disabilities who require the assistance of a qualified service animal. Some students may request the use of a service animal to assist them in performing daily life tasks, including academic and other campus activities.

### Definitions:

A **service animal** is defined as "any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items." Provided that an animal meets this definition, especially in regard to the nature of the animal's training and the tasks performed, the animal is considered to be a service animal regardless of whether it has been licensed or certified by a state or local government.

A **"companion" or "therapy" animal** is an animal whose role is to provide companionship, affection, security, a calming influence, or otherwise function as part of a regimen of psychological treatment. A companion or therapy animal does not meet the definition of "service animal" unless it assists an individual with a disability by performing specific tasks associated with the activities of daily living.

A student who wishes to have a **service animal** accompany him/her on campus should submit a written request to the Director of the Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with Disabilities by no later than one month prior to the first day of classes for the semester as of which the student is requesting the animal to be present on campus. The letter of request must include:

- Verification of the need for a service animal
- A description of the specific tasks that the service animal performs.
- Verification that the service animal has received individualized training in accordance with the standards set forth by a recognized service animal training organization such as Assistance Dogs International
- The areas of campus in which the service animal will accompany the student
- Documentation that the service animal is in compliance with all required New York State and New York City requirements associated with licensing, vaccinations, and other health regulations.

Should the request be granted, the owner will be supplied with a letter from the Director of the Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with disabilities stating his/her right to be accompanied by the service animal on campus.

### Responsibilities of the Owner/Handler:

- The service animal must be on a leash at all times. It should never be permitted to wander off leash.
- The owner/handler must be in full control of the animal at all times.
- The animal must be as unobtrusive as possible and may not be placed in a location that impedes access to the classroom.
- A service animal may be prohibited from being on campus if the animal demonstrates behavior that is deemed to pose a direct threat to the health and safety of others or disrupts the educational process.
- All owners/handles are responsible to clean up after and properly dispose of their animal's feces while on campus.
- It is the owner/handler's responsibility to assure that the service animal is at all times in compliance with all required New York State and New York City requirements associated with licensing, vaccinations, and other health regulations.