

Service and Assistance Animals Policy

This policy relates to service and assistance animals that may be used by individuals with disabilities at University of Mary. A service animal is an animal that either works, provides assistance, or performs tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability. An assistance animal provides emotional or other type of support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's disability.

Service Animals

Under disability law, the term "service animal" refers to any dog or miniature horse that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person's disability. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the person's disability. The provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship does not constitute work or tasks for the purpose of this definition. Service animals are permitted to accompany people with disabilities in all areas of University of Mary's facilities. Students with service animals are not required to register with Student Accessibility Services Office however, the university encourages students to contact Student Accessibility Services Office in the lower level of the Welder Library, (701) 355.8264 to learn what other services may be available.

Assistance Animals

Under disability law, an "assistance animal" is defined to be an animal that provides emotional or other support that improves one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's disability. Unlike service animals, assistance animals are not required to be trained to perform work, tasks, or to be certified. Assistance animals include species other than dogs.

Students who intend to bring an assistance animal to campus and/or live in campus residences must receive an accommodation through Student Accessibility Services Office to do so. Accommodation requests to bring an assistance animal to live in campus residences must be submitted to Student Accessibility Services Office 60 days prior to move-in, although exceptions can be made with good cause prior to move-in. The Student Accessibility Services Office will work with the director of residence life to accommodate the student who requests to bring an assistance animal to live in campus residences. In addition, after the student has registered with the Student Accessibility Services Office, the student will need complete the Assistance Animal Procedure Acknowledgment and Information Form. Contact the director of residence life within the Student Development Office to obtain the Assistance Animal procedural guidelines, acknowledgement, and information form.

Responsibilities of Individuals with Service and Assistance Animals

The University of Mary is not responsible for the care or supervision of service or assistance animals. Individuals with service and assistance animals are responsible for the cost, care, and supervision of their animals, including the following:

- Compliance with any laws pertaining to animal licensing, vaccination, and owner identification
- Keeping the animal under control and taking effective action if it becomes out of control
- Feeding, walking, providing ordinary care of the animal and the surrounding area; and appropriately disposing of the animals' waste

Animal waste disposal via university plumbing is prohibited. University staff will provide guidance on where to appropriately dispose of animal waste.

University of Mary will not require any surcharges or fees for service or assistance animals. A person with a service animal may be charged for damage caused by the animal to the same extent that University of Mary would normally charge a person for the damage they cause.

Individuals who have service or assistance animals must comply with the same university rules regarding noise, safety, disruption, and cleanliness as all other members of the community.

Exceptions and Exclusions

The University of Mary reserves the right to restrict or exclude a service or assistance animal in certain instances including but not limited to:

- Certain breeds of dogs or other animals that have been deemed to be dangerous by local authorities or university officials.
- It is out of control and effective action is not taken to control it
- It is not housebroken (or in the case of an assistance animal that deposits waste in a designated cage or little box, the owner fails to clean such cage or box such that the cleanliness of the room is not maintained);
- It poses a direct threat to the health and/or safety of others that cannot be alleviated by reasonable modifications of policies, practices, or procedures, or the provisions of auxiliary aids or services.
- In the event the University of Mary determines that the animal poses a direct threat to the health and/or safety of others the student will be provided written notice. This written notice will allow the student to meet with University officials to determine the best course of action to be taken with the animal.

In the event that restrictions or removal of a service or assistance animal is determined to be necessary, the owner of the animal will still be eligible to participate in the service, program, or activity without having the service or assistance animal present.

Guidelines for Members of the University of Mary Community

To ensure equal access and non-discrimination of individuals with disabilities, members of the University of Mary community must abide by the following practices:

- Allow service animals to accompany individuals with disabilities on campus
- Assistance animals to accompany individuals only within the campus residences.
- Do not ask for details about the individual's disabilities
- Do not pet a service or assistance animal, as it distracts the animal from its work
- Do not feed a service or assistance animal
- Do not deliberately startle, tease, or taunt a service animal or assistance animal
- Do not separate or attempt to separate a person from his/her service or assistance animal

If you have a disability that may be affected by the presence of animals, please contact Student Accessibility Services Office in the lower level of Welder Library, 701.355.8264. University of Mary is committed to ensuring that the needs of all individuals with disabilities are met and will determine how to resolve any conflicts or issues as expeditiously as possible.

Approved

- February 17, 2016, by the President's Council of the University of Mary
- March 10, 2016, by the Executive Committee of the University of Mary Board of Trustees