

The University of Texas at Tyler Student Accessibility and Resources

Service Animal Information

Federal definition of a Service Animal (SA) is a dog that has been specifically trained to perform specific task(s) directly related to the handler's disability diagnosis. The state of Texas has provision for Service Dogs in Training, but also must be being trained to perform specific task(s) related to the diagnosed disability. SAs do not need to be registered with the Student Accessibility and Resources office on campus, although for support on campus and potentially other available accommodations, it is encouraged.

Service Dogs are allowed in any and all buildings with their handler. A trained SA is considered an extension of the handler and is trained to perform specific tasks directly related to the handler's diagnosed condition. An SA is to be under the control of the handler at all times. This includes being secured to a leash no longer than 6 feet, unless obeying a direct command by the handler that the dog has been specifically trained to do, then returned to the leash.

Although not required by law, it is encouraged that a Service Animal wears visible identification (vest, collar, etc.) so other students and individuals on campus are made aware that the animal is working for you and discourage petting or other interaction with your animal. There is an increasing amount of individuals falsely representing this important asset and true SAs need to be properly identified and handled. (*please review the attached document regarding STATE of TEXAS law).

Exceptions

Animals can be removed from campus and/or campus housing if

- The animal is not housebroken
- Causes substantial physical damage to the property of others or University facilities
- Poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others
- Is not under the control of the owner at all times
- Vaccinations and/or other health requirements are not kept updated
- The animal shows signs of neglect or abuse
- Animal waste is not cleaned up immediately by the handler – inside and outside on campus property

NOTE:

- The animal is not to be left unattended or in the care of another individual anywhere on campus, including the dorm room and/or housing facilities. As an *extension* of the Handler, the animal accompanies the Handler everywhere they go.