

## **Service Animals and Emotional Support Animals**

### Definitions

A **service animal** means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Tasks performed can include, among other things, pulling a wheelchair, retrieving dropped items, alerting a person to a sound, reminding a person to take medication, or pressing an elevator button. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability.

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA Subsection 36.104), a service animal is defined as "a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability." Service dogs are not required to wear identifying information or a special vest. General questions about service dogs or concerns about service dogs exhibiting inappropriate behavior should be directed to the Disability Services Office.

Although service dogs are allowed on campus, certain programs may have additional regulations to meet state and federal health and safety requirements. For more information, contact the specific program or the Disability Services Office.

If an employee is not sure whether a dog is a service animal, the following questions may be asked:

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

An **emotional support animal**, comfort animal, and/or therapy dog is not a service animal under Title II and Title III of the ADA. These support animals provide companionship and sometimes help with depression, anxiety, and certain phobias, but do not have special training to perform tasks that assist people with disabilities. These animals are not limited to working with people with disabilities and therefore are not covered by federal laws protecting the use of service animals. Therapy animals provide people with therapeutic contact, usually in a clinical setting, to improve his/her physical, social, emotional, and/or cognitive functioning. Species of animals, outside of dogs and miniature horses, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not considered service animals. A doctor's letter does not turn an animal into a service animal.

### Handler's Responsibility

The service animal should be vaccinated in accordance with state and local laws.

The ADA requires the service animal to be under the control of the handler at all times.

- This can occur using a harness, leash, or other tether. However, in cases where either the handler is unable to hold a tether because of a disability or its use would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, the service animal must be under the handler's control by some other means, such as voice control.

The handler is responsible for the care and supervision of his or her service animal.

- If a service animal behaves in an unacceptable way and the person with a disability does not control the animal, the handler may be asked to remove the animal. Uncontrolled barking, growling, sniffing, jumping on other people, or running away from the handler are examples of unacceptable behavior for a service animal.

The service animal must be housebroken.

- The ADA does not require covered entities to provide for the care or supervision of a service animal, including cleaning up after the animal.

### Animals in Housing

All service dog and emotional support animal requests must be submitted to the Disability Services Office. After the Disability Services Office has reviewed the health care provider's recommendations and approved the accommodation of a service dog and emotional support animal, the Disability Services Office will forward the accommodation approval to the Navarro College Housing Department. The student is responsible for submitting all required documentation before moving into housing.

No animal will be permitted in residence halls or apartments that:

- Is not approved by the Disability Services Office
- Is prohibited by Corsicana City Ordinance
- Is not approved by Navarro College Housing Department
- Poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others
- Would cause physical damage to the property of the College and/or other residents
- Would pose an undue financial and administrative burden to the College
- Would fundamentally alter the nature of the College's housing operations

All approved service dogs or emotional support animals must comply with applicable laws regarding animals and his/her treatment and care. Navarro College will only approve one animal per resident, unless otherwise directed by the Disability Services Office, and all animals must also meet standards set by the Navarro College Housing Department.