**Service Animal/Service Animal In-Training Policy**

Saint Louis University understands the importance of providing reasonable accommodations in its campus and housing policies and practices where necessary for individuals with disabilities to fully participate in the University’s programs and functions. Fulfilling this commitment, SLU recognizes the necessity of “Service Animals” as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) and “Assistance Animals”, a broader term covered under the Fair Housing Act (FHA) pertaining to individuals with mental health disabilities. This policy is specific to Service Animals on Saint Louis University’s campus and within housing.Saint Louis University reserves the right to amend this policy at any time as circumstances require.

**Definition**

**Service Animals:** Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person’s disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

**Voluntary Registration Process**

Students Utilizing Service Animals on Saint Louis University’s campus are asked to participate in a voluntary registration process through [Disability Services](https://www.slu.edu/life-at-slu/student-success-center/disability-services/) to ensure proper communication can be articulated to campus partners. Disability Services does not require individuals to register their service animal with the office as a condition for the animal to be allowed in public spaces (e.g., classrooms, student commons, dining facilities, etc.).

**Service Animals on Campus**

Service dogs are welcome anywhere on campus that is open to the public, but there may be individual exceptions in places where the presence of the animal may compromise a sterile environment. Service animals should be under the control of the handler at all times. Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal’s work or the individual’s disability prevents using these devices. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.

In the event that a service animal is out of control, aggressive to others, significantly disruptive (and the owner does not take proper action to control the animal), or is not housebroken, then Saint Louis University may find it necessary to ask that the animal be removed from the premises. If it is necessary to ask that a dog be removed, every effort will be made to ensure the handler still has access to the programs or services of the institution without the animal.

**Care of Service Animals**

It is the responsibility of the handler to provide care and food for the animal – University personnel are not required to assist with these components. The owner is required to clean up after and properly dispose of the animal’s waste in a safe and sanitary manner. The animal will not be bathed – or its cage/crate/bedding cleaned – using student housing or university facilities, nor may the animal use any artificial waste collection devices within university facilities. Service animals must be taken outside to relieve themselves on grass, no closer than 15 feet from a building’s entrance or exit. Waste must be placed in an impermeable container and disposed of in an outside garbage dumpster on a regular basis. Animals must be groomed regularly as recommended by a licensed veterinarian.

**Service Animals within Campus Housing**

To ensure the safety of the residential community, individuals will be asked to present current medical records indicating their service animal has received all necessary vaccinations. Saint Louis University will not ask for or require an individual with a disability to pay a fee or surcharge for the Service Animal if living in University Housing. Therefore, individuals with service animals planning on living in University housing must provide University personnel (e.g., Disability Services, Department of Housing and Residence Life, etc.) sufficient notice of the intent so that appropriate arrangements regarding placement, roommates, and other living components can be made. Saint Louis University will not dictate room assignments for individuals who have a Service Animal to any particular space within university housing.

**Additional Standards for Service Animals**

· The owner is required to ensure the animal is well cared for at all times. Any evidence of mistreatment or abuse may result in an immediate removal of the Service Animal and/or discipline for the individual.

· An individual with a disability may be charged for any damage caused by his or her Service Animal beyond reasonable wear and tear to the same extent that the university charges other individuals for damages beyond reasonable wear and tear. The owner’s living accommodations may also be inspected for fleas, ticks, or other pests, as necessary. If fleas, ticks, or other pests are detected through inspection, the residence will be treated using approved fumigation methods by a University-approved pest control service. The owner will be billed for the expense of any pest treatment above and beyond standard pest management in the residence halls. The University shall have the right to bill the owner’s account for unmet obligations under this provision.

· Generally, service dogs are to remain with their handlers when taken to the hospital. In the event of an emergency, and/or the owner is incapacitated and further care for the animal is needed, the University requires the name and contact information for someone who does not reside in University housing who can take responsibility for the service animal until the owner can resume care of the animal.

**Removal of Service Animals**

Saint Louis University may require the individual to remove the animal from campus if:

1. The animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others or causes substantial property damage to the property of others;

2. The animal’s presence results in a fundamental alteration of a University program;

3. The owner does not comply with the owner’s responsibilities set forth above; or

4. The animal or its presence creates an unmanageable disturbance or interference with the University community.

Decisions to remove a service animal will be based on the actual behaviors of the animal – not speculation of fear about any harm and/or damage an animal may cause. Any removal of a service animal will be done in collaboration between Disability Services, Housing and Residence Life, and the Office of Student Responsibility and Community Standards.

If served notice of animal eviction, the Student will have five (5) calendar days to remove and relocate the animal. In the case that an animal has caused significant harm to another individual within the residential community, the animal is subject to immediate removal from campus. In the event the animal is not removed, the owner will be required to meet with University personnel in the Office of Student Responsibility and Community Standards and face potential conduct sanctions.

**Appeals**

Decisions to remove an animal may be appealed by filling out an [appeal form](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?SaintLouisUniv&layout_id=20). The Director of Disability Services will then assemble a team of qualified professionals to review the appeal. Appeals should be provided in written format within five (5) calendar days of the initial date of the decision communication. The Student may also request that the eviction be held in abeyance during the appeal process, but such requests must be supported by significant grounds.

The appeal must state a specific reason for reconsideration of the decision. Appeals may only be based on:

1. New information that was not available at the time of the initial decision;

2. A procedural error that occurred that unfairly impacted the decision;

3. There is just cause to reconsider the decision, such a demonstrated bias against the student.

**Saint Louis University, Department of Housing and Residence Life**

**Animal Registration Form**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Student Information** | | | | | | |
| **Academic Year Requesting Accommodations** (e.g., 2020-2021, 2021-2022, etc.): | | | | | | |
| **Name**: | | | | | **Today’s Date**: | |
| **Banner** **#**: | | | | | **DOB**: | |
| **Home City, State**: | | | | | **Phone #**: | |
| **SLU E-mail Address**: | | | | | **Major**: | |
| **Highlight Year**: | Fr | Soph | Jr | Sr | 5th/6thYr | Grad |
| **Information of Contact who will accept the animal in the event of an emergency or necessary relocation/removal of the animal:** | | | | | | |
| Name: | | | | | | |
| Phone: | | | | | | |
| Address: | | | | | | |
| Email Address: | | | | | | |
| I attest that I have spoken to the above contact about this responsibility: | | | | | | |
| Signature of Contact: | | | | | | |
| I give permission to Housing and Residence Life to contact the above person if I cannot be contacted: | | | | | | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Animal Information** | |
| Name: | Type of Animal: |
| Breed: | Weight: |
| Color: | Sex (Male of Female): |
| Age: | Date of Spay/Neuter: |
| **Vaccination Information\* (Please provide vaccine information in the boxes listed below):** | |
| Vaccine: | Date: |
| Vaccine: | Date: |
| Vaccine: | Date: |

\*Official Veterinarian vaccination records should be provided as an attachment to these documents.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Veterinarian Contact Information** | |
| **Name**: | **Phone #:** |
| **Full Address:** | |
| **E-mail Address**: | |

***Please Note: The University may request additional information from the veterinarian.***