

Concordia University, Nebraska

Service Animal Policy

This policy speaks to the presence of service animals on campus, as defined by the Department of Justice, under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Those wishing to have other animals on campus should contact the Disability Support Services office (DSS) for information about restrictions, or for referral to other offices on campus.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) assures people with disabilities who are accompanied by service animals that they will not be excluded from public places or activities, nor charged any additional fees, because they are accompanied by their service dog.

If you have a question as to the appropriateness of an animal you see on campus, please contact the DSS office or Campus Security.

The University reserves the right to modify this policy as needed. For additional information concerning the use of a service animal or other accommodations and services, please contact Disability Support Services at (402) 643-7187 (Link Library, room 143) or visit the DSS website at cune.edu/ada.

Service Animals

The Department of Justice has determined that under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), service animals are 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 tasks a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. A service dog can be any breed or size. It might wear specialized equipment such as a backpack, harness, or special collar or leash, but this is not a legal requirement. If a dog meets this definition, it is considered a service animal regardless of whether it has been licensed or certified by a state or local government or a training program.

The ADA further states that "dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA."

The ADA allows service animals accompanying persons with disabilities to be anywhere that is open to the public on University premises, this includes the right to bring the service animal into food service locations. University premises shall mean any land and/or facility owned, leased, rented and/or occupied by the Concordia University, Nebraska (CUNE). There may be individual exceptions in places where the presence of the service animal may compromise safety or a sterile environment and/or interfere with the fundamental nature of the activities being conducted in which the service animal would not be permitted.

In case of an emergency, every effort will be made to keep the animal with its partner.

Voluntary Registration of Service Animals While on Campus

For those individuals who are enrolled in courses that would like to voluntarily register their service animal with the University, please contact Disability Support Services at (402) 643-7187 (Link Library, room 143). As stated, this is voluntary but may aide one in accessing the University premises. Registration is not available for visitors to campus or service dogs in training.

Requirements of Service Animals and their Owners

- Local ordinances regarding animals apply to service animals, including requirements for immunization, licensing, noise, restraint, and at-large animals.
- The animal cannot pose a direct threat to the health and safety of persons while on the University's premises.
- The owner must ensure that the service animal does not block identified fire/emergency exits.
- The owner must be in full control of the animal 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.
- The owner is responsible for instructing others on appropriate interactions with the animal and setting clear expectations.
- As much as possible, the owner should ensure that the service animal does not approach and sniff other individuals, dining tables, or the personal belongings of others, or infringe inappropriately into other's personal space.
- The owner must ensure that the service animal does not display behaviors or noises that are deemed disruptive to others, unless said noise/behaviors are part of the needed disability service to the owner.
- The owner is responsible for cleaning up the animal's waste and fluids and disposing of such in outside trash containers only. Waste disposal via University plumbing is prohibited. The owner should always carry equipment sufficient to clean up and properly dispose of the animal's waste and fluids. Owners who are not physically able to pick up and dispose of the animal's waste and fluids are responsible for making all necessary arrangements for assistance. The University is not responsible for these services. Additionally, the animal is not to be bathed or its cage/crate, or bedding cleaned using University Housing or University facilities.
- The owner is liable for damage caused by the animal.

Exclusions

A service animal may be excluded from any authorized area and its owner may be subject to disciplinary action if, including, but not limited to:

- The service animal displays aggressive or disruptive behavior or noises and effective action is not taken to control it; unless said noise/behavior(s) are part of the needed disability service to the owner;
- The service animal is not housebroken;
- The service animal poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others;
- The service animal is not in good health, well-groomed, or cared for;
- The service animal infringes inappropriately into other's personal space;
- The owner intentionally uses the service animal to block identified fire/emergency exits; or
- Violations of any of these specific guidelines and requirements occur.

NOTE: In the event that restriction or removal of a service animal is determined to be necessary, every effort will be made to ensure that the individual still has access to the programs, services, or activities of the University without the animal.

Service Animals in Residence in University Housing (if applicable)

Concordia University is committed to providing equal access to University Housing to all students with disabilities. In keeping with this, it is the policy of Concordia University that service animals are permitted in all housing facilities in accordance with University procedures and policies and as governed by applicable law.

Sufficient notice of the intent of an individual with a disability planning to have a service animal in University Housing must be given to the DSS office at (402) 643-7187 (Link Library, room 143) so that appropriate arrangements regarding placement, roommates, etc. can be made. The following additional information and acknowledgements are required:

Student Information:

Name: _____

Current Housing Assignment: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please answer the following questions:

- 1) Is this dog a service animal required because of a disability?

2) What disability-related task or service is the animal trained to provide?

In addition to the requirements and exclusions listed above, I acknowledge that service animals in campus housing must meet these additional specific guidelines and requirements:

- Service animals residing in university-owned residence halls are subject to the same rules regarding disposal of waste and maintaining a clean and healthy environment.
- A service animal must be clean, in good health, vaccinated, and licensed as required by local law. Verification of current vaccination and clean bill of health must be provided.
- A service animal may not be left in the care of another student or left in campus housing if the student leaves overnight or for the weekend.

My signature below indicates that I have been made aware of and understand Concordia University's procedures for Housing and Service Animals (if applicable), and I agree to abide by Concordia University's Service Animal Policy.

Student Signature

Date

Student Complaint Procedure

Concordia University believes that all students should be treated with respect and dignity and should receive the best quality of services possible. Additionally, as Christians, we strive to respond to conflict biblically through use of Matthew 18 by encouraging both parties to listen to each other, think about the concerns expressed and be open to resolving the issue. Resources are available for students to submit a concern or complaint regarding the conduct of students, faculty and staff.

[Procedures for filing a complaint can be found here.](#)