Service and Assistance Animals on Campus

Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science welcomes the presence of Service and Assistance Animals assisting people with disabilities on campus. This statement details the policy as defined by the University and by applicable laws. This policy is managed through the office of Academic Support, Division of Student Affairs and Inclusion.

Contact Information

Director for Academic Support, ADA Coordinator Division of Student Affairs and Inclusion
HSB L675
(847) 578-8482
academic.support@rosalindfranklin.edu

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to protect the rights of students, staff, faculty, and visitors to campus with disabilities related to the use of service and assistance animals on campus. As established by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) and the Fair Housing Act (FHA), individuals with disabilities must be allowed the same benefits as those without disabilities. This includes access to public spaces for individuals with Service or Assistance Animals.

II. Definitions

A. Service Animals

According to the ADA, service animals are dogs or small horses 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 an animal has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person’s disability. Animals whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.
B. Assistance Animals

Assistance animals (also called comfort animals, therapy animals, or support animals) provide emotional support to an individual. An Assistance Animal is not trained to perform a work task and is therefore not a Service Animal. Assistance animals are not limited to dogs or small horses.

III. Service Animal Use on Campus

Service animals are permitted to accompany people with disabilities in all areas of campus where students, faculty and staff are normally allowed to go, including classrooms, clinics, labs, and the cafeteria. Animals must be leashed unless this would interfere with the work that the animal is trained to perform.

When it is not obvious what service an animal performs, University staff/faculty may ask only two questions of the individual regarding his/her Service Animal:

1. Is the dog (or horse) a Service Animal required because of a disability?
2. What work or task has the dog (or horse) been trained to perform?

University staff/faculty may NOT ask about the person’s disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card or training documentation for the animal, or ask that the animal demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task. Service Animals need not wear a vest, ID tag, or harness identifying them as a Service Animal.

Individuals with Service Animals may not be denied the same benefits or access to University resources for reasons related to fear of dogs or allergies. Similarly, it is not acceptable to isolate the individual from other students, staff or faculty for these reasons.

It is the responsibility of the person with a disability to ensure that the Service Animal remains in control and is housebroken. University personnel are not required to provide care for the animal.

Service Animals must be in good health and up to date on all vaccines, registration, and licenses as required by Illinois and Lake County law.

Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science encourages the registration of Service Animals with the office of Academic Support for the purpose of

- advocacy for the person with a disability
• coordination of resources and services
• safety for the animal

Academic Support invites individuals with Service Animals to discuss their use on campus.

IV. Assistance Animal Use on Campus

Assistance animals may be permitted on campus on a case-by-case basis.

Individuals requesting permission to bring an Assistance Animal on campus, including Campus Housing, should contact the Director for Academic Support, ADA Coordinator, at (847) 578-8482 or academic.support@rosalindfranklin.edu.

V. Guidelines for RFUMS Community Members

• Allow Service Animals to accompany people with disabilities on campus.
• Do not ask for details about a person’s disability.
• Do not ask for certification regarding the animal’s training.
• Do not distract a service animal by petting or feeding it without the permission of the owner.
• Questions or concerns regarding this policy should be directed to the Director of Academic Support, ADA Coordinator, at (847) 578-8482 or academic.support@rosalindfranklin.edu.

References

Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
Fair Housing Act