



Service Animal Policy

Waynesburg University (WU) grants qualified students with disabilities who own service animals to full campus access in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and its amendments. The ADA defines service animals as “dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.” 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. Species of animals other than dogs, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals. However, in some cases, the University may permit the use of a miniature horse as a service animal on a case-by-case basis, consistent with applicable law.

This policy pertains to service animals and service animals in training on campus and in University housing. Students interested in bringing other assistance animals, such as emotional support animals (ESAs), to University housing should consult the University’s separate policy regarding assistance animals.

Waynesburg University reserves the right to amend this policy at any time, as circumstances require.

I. Access to Campus Facilities

A trained service animal will be allowed to accompany the owner at all times and anywhere on campus, including food service locations, that the owner is permitted to go. Exceptions may be made in areas where, for health and safety reasons, service animals are specifically prohibited. If a service animal is specifically prohibited from any area on campus, the owner may request separate, reasonable accommodations from the Disability Services Office.

II. Service Animal Owner Responsibilities

1. The University is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal. Individuals with disabilities are responsible for the control of their service animal at all times and must comply with all applicable state and local laws and regulations, including vaccination, licensure, animal health, and leash laws.
2. The owner must always be in full control of the animal. Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the services animal’s work or the individual’s disability prevents these devices. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective methods.
3. As a courtesy to members of the WU community, as much as possible the handler should ensure that the service animal does not approach and sniff others, dining tables, or personal belongings of others.

4. Service animal owners must take reasonable precautions to keep their animal clean and free from flea and tick infestation.
5. Service animal owners must pick up after their animals anywhere on university property. Animal waste must be bagged and disposed of into appropriate receptacles. Animal accidents must be cleaned up promptly using appropriate cleaning products. If an animal urinates or defecates inside a building, or in another area that requires cleaning and maintenance, the owner must notify staff and will be responsible for the cost of such cleaning.
6. WU personnel are not required to provide care or food for any service animal, including but not limited to, removing the service animal during emergency evacuation for events such as a fire alarm. Emergency personnel will determine whether to remove the Service Animal and may not be held responsible for the care of, injury/death of, or loss of the Service Animal.
7. The University reserves the right to exclude a service animal from campus facilities and/or housing if it:
 - a. is out of the effective control of the owner;
 - b. is not housebroken;
 - c. creates an unreasonable disturbance in or interference with the college community;
 - d. poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others;
 - e. when its presence fundamentally alters the nature of the program or activity;
 - f. or when the owner does not comply with this policy.

III. Service Animals for Commuter Students

1. Any Waynesburg University student who intends to have a service animal on campus must inform the Disability Services Coordinator (dso@waynesburg.edu) to appropriately notify faculty and other campus stakeholders as well as to help the student access disability-related resources, information, and support.

IV. Service Animals in University Housing

1. Students who intend to bring service animals to campus housing should notify the University when they request housing or contact the Disability Services Coordinator (dso@waynesburg.edu) at least sixty (60) days prior to moving to on-campus housing. Requests that are received after this deadline will be accommodated as promptly as possible, but timely notification is requested to facilitate appropriate residential placement.
2. Before bringing the animal to university housing, the owner must submit the animal's vaccination records, the name and phone number for an off-campus contact who can be notified in case of emergency, and signed Roommate Agreement forms for all roommates/suitemates to the Disability Services Coordinator. If irresolvable conflicts arise in relation to an assistance animal, either the owner and animal or the non-approving roommates or suitemates may be moved to a more suitable location. This will be determined by the Office of Residence Life and Housing and the Disability Services Office.
3. Service animal owners are financially responsible for any and all damages caused by their service animal. Damages may include but are not limited to bodily injury, property damage (including furniture, flooring, urine, or feces stains or odors, etc.), flea or tick removal, cleaning beyond what is

normally required, and any repairs that are deemed necessary after the owner and service animal have vacated the residence hall. The university shall have the right to bill the individual's account for unmet obligations under this provision.

4. The owner must abide by all equally applicable residential policies that are unrelated to the student's disability such as assuring that the service animal does not unduly interfere with the routine activities of the residence or cause difficulties for individuals who reside there.

5. The owner must make proper arrangements for the removal and care of a service animal while the residence halls are closed for breaks/holidays. The need to care for a service animal is not a valid reason for permission to stay on campus over a break or any other period when university housing is closed.

6. Service animals generally accompany their owners at all times to complete their disability-related task(s). However, if the owner chooses to leave a service animal unattended in the residential halls for a short time, it must be secured in a cage or crate for both the animal's safety and the safety of Waynesburg University staff and/or emergency personnel.

7. Service animals should not be left in the residence halls alone overnight or for any period of time that would require outside assistance with animal care. If the owner must be away for any period of time that would require outside assistance with animal care, such as overnights and weekends, the animal must be taken with the owner or cared for off campus. The owner may not give access to their room to anyone to care for the animal. The University will not permit other individuals to access the owner's residential space for the purpose of animal care. Owners who cannot bring a service animal with them or coordinate off-campus care for the animal while away from campus must contact local or regional kennels and/or boarding facilities. The cost of such boarding the animal is the responsibility of the owner. If a service animal owner leaves their animal in the residence halls alone overnight or for any period of time that would require outside assistance with animal care, the University reserves the right to remove the animal from campus by either relocating the animal to a boarding facility at the owner's expense or relinquishing the animal to a humane shelter.

V. Service Animals in Training

The Department of Justice's administrative rules for Title II and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act do not recognize service animals in training.

Though service dogs in training are not granted the same rights as fully trained service animals under the ADA, Pennsylvania state laws grant service animal trainers access to places of public accommodation.

As such, Waynesburg University permits service animals in training access to public accommodations on campus. Owners of service dogs in training must notify the DSO Coordinator prior must inform the Disability Services Coordinator (dso@waynesburg.edu) to appropriately notify faculty and other campus stakeholders as well as to help the student access disability-related resources, information, and support. Service animals in training must be accompanied by their owner/handler at all times while in areas of public accommodations and must abide by all responsibilities/behavioral expectations established for fully trained service dogs documented in this policy. It is also recommended that service dogs in training wear identifying vests and/or collars.

VI. Service Animals in Training in University Housing

Students wishing to bring service animals in training to campus housing must be approved by the Disability Services Coordinator prior to bringing the animal to campus. Inquiries related to housing service animals in training on campus must be initiated a minimum of 60 days prior to the expected date of campus residency. Students with service animals in training should contact the Disability Services Coordinator at dso@waynesburg.edu or 724-852-7727 to obtain further information about documentation and procedures required to bring a service dog in training to University housing.

VII. Conflicting Health Conditions

Students, faculty, or staff with medical condition(s) that are affected by animals are asked to contact the Disability Services Office if they have a health or safety-related concern about exposure to a service animal or service animal in training.

VIII. Requirements for Members of the University Community

Service animals and service animals in training are working animals and are not considered pets. Waynesburg University faculty, staff and students should adhere to the following guidelines when interacting with service animals.

1. Do not inquire about the nature of the owner's disability, request documentation for the service animal or service animal in training, or require the service animal/service animal in training to demonstrate its task.
2. Do not prevent a service animal or service animal in training from accompanying its owner at anytime and anywhere on campus except where specifically prohibited.
3. Do not pet, feed, or otherwise distract a service animal or service animal in training who is "on duty" unless the handler explicitly grants permission.
4. Do not startle, tease, or taunt a service animal or service animal in training.
5. Do not attempt to separate the service animal or service animal in training from its owner.
6. WU faculty, staff, or students should direct any questions or concerns about service animals or service animals in training on campus to the Disability Services Coordinator (dso@waynesburg.edu).

IX. Owner Signatures

By my signature, I agree that I have read, understand, and will abide by all terms stipulated in Waynesburg University's Service Animal Policy.

Service Animal/Service Animal in Training Owner Name: _____

Service Animal/Service Animal in Training Owner Signature: _____

Date: _____