



OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES REGARDING SERVICE AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL ACCESS ON CAMPUS

Middle Georgia State University ("MGA") is committed to maintaining a fair and respectful environment for living, work, and study for all, including individuals with disabilities. To that end and in compliance with federal and state laws, this policy ("Policy") provides general guidelines and permitted uses of animals assisting individuals with disabilities while on MGA property.

DEFINITIONS

Service Animal: any dog¹ 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. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the handler's disability. Examples of such work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.

1 The ADA does not include other animals, such as miniature horses, camels, llamas, or ponies, as service animals. (a) Tj 0.46 0 Td 0 T324 Tm (H)Tj 0.-0.33 0 Td (h)Tj(9 0 Td (h)Tj 0.0
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RESTRICTIONS TO ACCESS

MGA may prohibit or otherwise restrict the access of Service Animals and Service Animals in Training in certain MGA facilities due to health or safety restrictions and concerns or where their presence may compromise the integrity of research or otherwise fundamentally alter a program or activity of MGA. Any such prohibition or other restriction on access to any MGA facility pursuant to this Policy shall be determined in writing using the guidance provided by this Policy and other relevant information by responsible officials of each affected MGA unit with copies provided to the Director of Disability Services and the Director of Risk Management. Such restrictions include, but are not limited to:

- a. Food preparation areas.
- b. Teaching or research laboratories.
- c. Classrooms or other facilities or activities involving demonstration or research animals.
- d. Mechanical rooms or custodial closets such as boiler rooms, facility equipment rooms, electrical closets, elevator control rooms, and similar spaces.
- e. Areas where personal protective clothing or equipment are necessary.
- f. Areas where there is a danger to the Service Animal or Service Animal in Training such as classrooms or wood/metal/machine shops where there are sharp metal cuttings or other sharp objects on the floor or protruding from a surface, where there is hot material on the floor (e.g., tools, metal or glass), where there is a high level of dust, where there are hazardous chemicals or materials, or where there are moving machinery.
- g. Such other areas where the Service Animal or Service Animal in Training may be endangered or constitute a danger to persons or animals.
- h. Areas where the presence of the Service Animal or Service Animal in Training would cause or require a fundamental alteration of a MGA program or activity.

Residence Life may also restrict access to certain MGA facilities, such as:

may grant an animal temporary access to otherwise restricted areas of MGA facilities, but only for a duration and extent required based on the nature of the exigency or other unusual circumstances.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF HANDLERS, PARTNERS AND STUDENT ESA OWNERS

a. All are required to keep their animals under their direct physical control at all times, when outside of their assigned residence unit as permitted by this Policy. A Handler or Partner must maintain close and direct physical control of the Service Animal at all times by means of an appropriate leash or other lead of a type and length that enables the Handler or Partner to maintain close and direct physical control of the service animal. If a Handler is unable to use these restraints because of his or her disability or because use would interfere with the safe and effective performance of work or tasks, then the animal must otherwise be under the Handler's control by voice control, signals, or other effective means. An example of an ESA that is out of control would be an animal that repeatedly gets loose and runs at large, even if it does not physically injure another person or ESA.

b. All are prohibited from transferring control to another person even momentarily, requesting the assistance of othe

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professional has a documented history of treating the employee for the underlying disability.

Service Animals: Employees who require the use of Service Animals that have been trained to perform tasks for people with disabilities may choose to register their dogs with DS but are not required to do so. Employees with Service Animals who reside in University Housing will need to comply with [Housing policies and procedures for service animals](#)

Generally:

Faculty and Staff Relations shall maintain appro

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