Service Animal Policy

Kenyon College Service Animals – Student Policy

Kenyon College is committed to compliance with state and federal laws regarding individuals with disabilities. Consequently, service animals (service dogs) that accompany persons with disabilities may accompany the individual with a disability (owner) everywhere on campus except in situations where safety may be compromised or where the service dog may interfere with the fundamental nature of the activities being conducted.

Service animals are animals trained to assist people with disabilities in the activities of daily living. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as amended (Sections 35.104, 35.136, 36.104, 36.302 (c) (2)– (8)), defines a service animal as “an animal that does work or performs tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability (including psychiatric, cognitive, mental).” Other than dogs, the only type of animal that can be considered a service animal under the ADA is a miniature horse, though miniature horses may be subject to somewhat greater restrictions than service dogs. Consequently, in the rest of this policy, “dogs” and “service dogs” will be used when referring to service animals.

Students with disabilities who will require the presence of a service dog on-campus are encouraged to self-identify to the Director of Student Accessibility and Support Services (hereo referred to as “Director”) and provide documentation appropriate to the presence of a service dog to the Director, prior to coming to campus. The Director, as is the usual practice for students with disabilities, will communicate with the student regarding the service dog (and other accommodations, as appropriate) and communicate with faculty, students, and other staff as appropriate.

Students should note that housing options may be limited as the College works to provide appropriate accommodations to students with disabilities and balance those needs with students who have allergies and/or dog fears. Consequently, advance notice of the need for a service dog is essential to the College providing a smooth transition for the student.

Requirements for Service Dogs

Service dogs may not pose a direct threat to the health and safety of persons on the college campus. Local ordinances regarding animals apply to service dogs, including requirements for immunizations, licensing, noise, restraint, at-large animals and dangerous animals.

The student must be in full control of the dog at all times. In areas outside a student’s on-campus room or apartment, service dogs 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 the latter cases, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.

The care and supervision of a service dog is solely the responsibility of the student owner. The dog must be maintained (kept clean) and may not create safety hazards for other people. In
addition, owners are urged to have the service animal wear a descriptive vest when in public places.

The student is responsible for immediately cleaning up and properly disposing of the dog’s waste and is responsible for having the equipment to do so. People who are physically unable to accomplish this task are responsible for arranging for it to be done and any costs that it incurs. The College retains the right to designate a particular area for the dogs to relieve themselves.

The College also may designate specific areas as off-limits to service animals due to health and safety concerns for the animal, the owner, and/or other community members.

The student, not the College, is responsible for the actions of the service animal including bodily injury or property damage. Students with service dogs are likely to be charged if additional cleaning or damage occurs as a result of having the animal on campus. The student is expected to pay these costs upon repair. In addition, the College retains the right to remove the dog should the dog become a direct threat to the health and safety of others.