

## **Service Animals**

It is the policy of Nova Southeastern University to make reasonable accommodations for the use of trained service animals by individuals with disabilities in all public areas of the university.

A service animal is defined by state and federal law as an animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability.

When it is not obvious what tasks the service animal has been trained to perform, NSU employees are only permitted to ask two questions:

- Is the service animal required because of a disability?
- What work or task is the service animal trained to perform?

Employees are not permitted to ask about the disability nor are employees permitted to ask for documentation of either the disability or the need for the service animal.

Examples of work or tasks a service animal has been trained to perform may include, but is 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. Animals whose sole function is to provide emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not qualify as a service animal.

A service animal shall have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable use a harness, leash, or other tether because of a disability or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks. The service animal shall be under the control of its handler at all times.

NSU is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal.

NSU may ask an individual with a disability to remove a service animal from the premises if the animal is out of control or disruptive and the handler does not take effective action to control it, or if the service animal is not housebroken.

All questions related to the use of service animals on campus should be directed to the Director of Student Disability Services at 954-262-7189.