

Illinois Valley Community College Board Policy

Subject: **Animals/Pets on Campus**

Effective Date: **04/10/2015**

Number: **06.02**

Last Reviewed: **04/14/2016**

Last Revised: **11/09/2023**

It is the policy of Illinois Valley Community College to afford individuals with disabilities who require the assistance of a service animal, equal opportunity to access College property, courses, programs, and activities.

This policy complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 as amended; Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and applicable state and local law regarding service animals.

If you are an employee requesting a service animal as an accommodation, please contact the Human Resources Office (815)224-0462. Students or guests to the College should review the policy below.

**Service Animal Defined**

For purposes of this policy, Illinois Valley Community College uses the [definition](#) outlined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for service animal, which includes any dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA or this policy. In addition, the ADA's revised regulations have a separate provision regarding miniature horses that meet specific requirements and have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.

**Where Service Animals Are Allowed**

Generally, owners of service animals are permitted to be accompanied by their service animal in all areas of the College's facilities and programs where the owner is allowed to go. Such areas include public areas, public events, classrooms, and other areas where College programs or activities are held.

A service animal may be restricted from specific areas of the College when (1) it would fundamentally alter a program or (2) the College has legitimate safety concerns and/or consistent with other College policies, state, and/or federal laws/regulations. Examples of these areas include but are not limited to:

- Food preparation areas;
- Research facilities/grounds and laboratories;

- Medically sensitive patient and clinic areas; and
- Biologically sensitive or hazardous locations.

If a service animal is restricted from certain areas, The Center for Accessibility and Neurodiversity (CAN) assists in evaluating and providing reasonable accommodations for the student.

### **Removal of Service Animals**

College personnel may only ask service animal owners to remove their service animal from College premises or from the immediate area under the following circumstances:

- If the service animal is not housebroken; or
- If the service animal is not under the owner's direct control or the service animal is disturbing or disrupting the normal administrative, academic, or programmatic routine. However, the owner must first be given an opportunity to get the animal under control. If the disruption or disturbance continues, then the owner may be asked to remove the animal; or
- If the presence, behavior, or actions of the service animal constitutes an immediate risk or danger to people or property, the owner can be asked to immediately remove the animal and 911 (emergency assistance) may be contacted.

If asked to remove the service animal, the owner must be offered the opportunity to return to the College premises or the immediate area without the service animal and be provided with reasonable assistance at that time to participate in the College's services or programs.

Additional information related to assessing service animal status, owner responsibilities, and other resources can be found in Institutional Procedure 06.02.00 Animals on Campus.

Those in violation of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action.

## Illinois Valley Community College Procedure

Subject: **Animals and Pets on Campus**

Effective Date: **11/09/2023**

Number: **06.02.00**

Last Reviewed:

Last Revised:

In alignment with Board Policy 06.02 Animals and Pets on Campus, it is the policy of Illinois Valley Community College to afford individuals with disabilities who require the assistance of a service animal, equal opportunity to access College property, courses, programs, and activities.

### **Assessing Service Animal Status**

#### Permitted Inquiries

College personnel must permit service animal access to property, events and/or activities with its owner when it is readily apparent that the animal is trained to do work or perform tasks for its owner. Examples include (1) a dog guiding an individual who is blind or has low vision, (2) pulling an individual's wheelchair, or (3) providing assistance with stability or balance to an individual with an observable mobility disability.

If the need for the service animal is not apparent, College personnel may only ask the following of service animal owners:

- Is the service animal required because of a disability; and
- What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

If the owner states that the animal is required because of a disability and that the animal has been trained to do work or a task for the owner, then the service animal must be admitted. If there is any doubt that an animal is a service animal, College personnel should admit the animal and then consult with The Center for Accessibility and Neurodiversity and/or the College ADA Coordinator regarding future access.

College personnel may not ask about the nature of the owner's disability or request medical documentation of disability and/or medical/mental health condition. Owners are not required to possess or provide any special registration, identification card, license, or other documentation that the animal is a service animal, or to demonstrate the animal's ability to perform work or tasks.

### **College Assistance**

Service animal owners are not required to register their service animal with the College. However, the student can voluntarily register with The Center for Accessibility and Neurodiversity, if interested. Having a service animal voluntarily registered could assist the College if any problems

arise an owner needs assistance with, or an emergency situation occurs, and emergency personnel need to be notified of where the service animal might be located in the case of an evacuation.

It is also recommended, but not required, that the service animal wear a specific identification tag, vest, or specific harness identifying them as a service animal.

### **Service Animal Owner's Responsibilities**

Service animal owners are responsible for complying with the following:

- Federal, State, County and/or city ordinances relating to animal owner responsibilities, including any required registrations and/or vaccinations;
- Keeping the service animal under the owner's direct control at all times, such as by a harness, leash, or other tether; however, if the use of a harness, leash, or other tether interferes with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, or if the owner's disability prevents the use of such devices, then the service animal must be under the owner's control through voice control, signals, or other effective means;
- Ensuring the service animal does not disturb or disrupt normal academic or administrative functions;
- Immediately cleaning up after the service animal and properly disposing of the service animal's waste or other debris (College personnel are not required to provide care or food for a service animal);
- Preventing the service animal from entering any pond, fountain, or stream located on College premises; and
- Being responsible for damage or injury caused by the service animal.

### **Addressing Issues and/or Concerns**

Illinois Valley Community College is committed to a prompt and effective resolution of any issues or concerns regarding service animals. If the Owner has a concern, the Owner should contact the Coordinator for The Center for Accessibility and Neurodiversity.

Concerned College personnel or students should contact The Center for Accessibility and Neurodiversity in the following situations:

- If any questions or concerns arise relating to service animals;
- If you have an allergy or other medical condition that makes spending time in the same room or facility with a service dog difficult or dangerous;
- If any service animal is out of control, or an owner is mistreating their service animal

### **Emotional Support Animals**

Emotional support animals, recognized under the FHA, provide comfort to individuals within their residence but are not service animals under Title II and Title III of the ADA and are generally not permitted on campus. Such non-service animals, however, can be used in unique circumstances to ameliorate stress for people with disabilities in public settings, but are not guaranteed access to public areas under the law, and if allowed on campus may be restricted to designated areas.

Students or campus guests who wish to request permission to have a non-service animal on campus must meet with the Center for Accessibility and Neurodiversity prior to bringing any animal on

campus. Students may contact (815) 224-0284 for additional information and to schedule an appointment. Employees should contact Human Resources (815) 224-0462.

Laws and resources referenced include the Illinois Attorney General's Office, as well as state laws and local ordinances. More specific information related to the state laws referenced can be obtained by contacting The Center for Accessibility and Neurodiversity.