



Creating a Safe Environment for Service Animals in Teaching Laboratories

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- Service animals have become more and more prevalent in society. The same holds true in academia, as well.
- Shannyn and Memphis
- Not the first – won't be the last!
- Created a “Student with Disabilities Guideline” document
- The Guideline deals with disabilities in general but I will focus on service animals in lab.



- **Revised ADA requirements (ada.gov)**
 - Beginning on March 15, 2011, only dogs are recognized as service animals .
 - Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.
 - Service animals may accompany people with disabilities in all areas where members of the public are allowed.
 - Service animals 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.
 - A person with a disability cannot be asked to remove his service animal unless: (1) the dog is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it or (2) the dog is not housebroken
 - In addition to the provisions about service dogs, the Department's revised ADA regulations have a new, separate provision about miniature horses that have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.



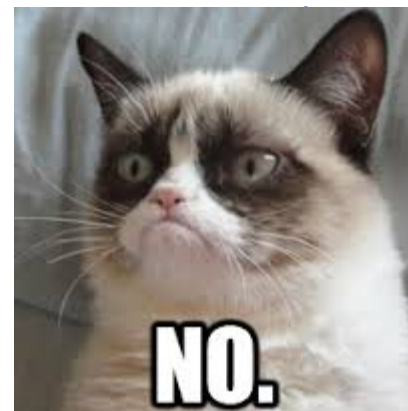
This is as much as you can ask, under the law:

- When it is not obvious what service an animal provides, only limited inquiries are allowed. Staff may ask two questions:
- (1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability, and
- (2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform.

Staff cannot:

- ask about the person's disability,
- require medical documentation,
- require a special identification card or training documentation for the dog,
- ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform work or task.

This is not an appropriate response!



Recognizing the legal constraints:

“INFORMATION FOR SERVICE ANIMAL USERS

The Chemistry Department is committed to your safety and success in laboratory and if that success includes the use of a service animal, to make sure your animal is also safe and secure. Laboratories are dangerous places. Hazardous chemicals, open flames, glassware, and electrical equipment are all in use. It is not a good environment for a beloved and precious animal.”





“If you require the use of a service animal in the laboratory, staff have been trained to ask you a series of questions to determine how best we can safely facilitate the presence of your animal. These questions are not intended to prevent you from having your animal in lab, but rather so we understand how best to accommodate your needs and the needs of your animal.”

- Do you require the animal to be with you at all times or only under certain circumstances? What are those circumstances?
- Do you need a place for the animal to stay while you're in lab and not needing the animal at that time?
- If you need the animal to be brought to you while you're in lab, what are those circumstances?
- What type of training and certification does the animal have? *(I think I'm going to have to ditch this question!)*
- What is the animal trained to alert to?
- How does the animal alert?
- What should the TA or Dispensary Staff do if the animal alerts?

Poochie PPE

“Service animals entering laboratories must be similarly protected to prevent exposure to hazardous chemicals, broken glass or other hazards that might be present in the laboratory environment. Booties to cover the feet and a disposable lab coat provided by the owner. The Department Dispensary Staff will make available plastic-backed absorbent paper for the animal to lie on during lab to protect the animal from whatever might be on the floor. Animal beds or fabric pads are not appropriate for use in the lab.”





Other Questions

- *Commonly asked questions (ada.gov)*
- **10. Q: What if a service animal barks or growls at other people, or otherwise acts out of control?**
 - A: You may exclude any animal, including a service animal, from your facility when that animal's behavior poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others. For example, any service animal that displays vicious behavior towards other guests or customers may be excluded. You may not make assumptions, however, about how a particular animal is likely to behave based on your past experience with other animals. Each situation must be considered individually.
 - Although a public accommodation may exclude any service animal that is out of control, it should give the individual with a disability who uses the service animal the option of continuing to enjoy its goods and services without having the service animal on the premises.

- ***Behavior expectations***
 - The animal must not vocalize, bark, or growl inappropriately.
 - The animal must not behave aggressively towards other people.



- Service animals can be safely accommodated in laboratory
- With good communication of expectations and documentation, people and animals can safely co-exist in lab.
- Our “Student with Disabilities Guideline” is available here:
[http://chemistry.ucdavis.edu/safety/
student_with_disability_guideline-final.pdf](http://chemistry.ucdavis.edu/safety/student_with_disability_guideline-final.pdf)
- If you’ d like an electronic version, email me at
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