

# MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY POLICY

Policy #:		Effective:	<b>August 2012</b>	Category:	<b>Student Policies</b>
Name:	<b>Student Service Animal and Emotional Support Animal Policy</b>				

## 1.0 PURPOSE

The University supports the use of services animals, including services dogs, on campus by students with disabilities in appropriate circumstances and in accordance with this Policy. Students with questions about the use of service animals or emotional support animals should refer to this Policy and visit the Disability Services and Student Success Center in Hearn Hall, Suite 301, or via phone at 417-659-3725.

## 2.0 SCOPE

This Policy applies to all students with service animals at the University.

## 3.0 POLICY

Students with disabilities who wish to bring a service animal to the University campus – including residential facilities, classrooms, and other University facilities – may do so without prior approval. However, University students are strongly encouraged to reach out to the Disability Services and Student Success Center on campus to ensure that their experience bringing the animal to campus is smooth. Additionally, students with service animals who plan to live in residential facilities are also strongly encouraged to inform Residence Life and Campus Dining Services that they plan to have a service animal living with them. Advance notice of a service animal for residential facilities may allow more flexibility in meeting a student's needs.

Students who wish to bring an emotional support animal into residential facilities as an exception to the "no pet" policy must go through the reasonable accommodation process with the Disability Services and Student Success Center. While accommodation requests will be accepted and considered at any time, requests should be made as far in advance as is reasonably possible before the student intends to bring the animal to campus in order to ensure timely consideration. An emotional support animal will not be allowed until formal approval has been received.

Service animals are welcome on campus, provided they meet following guidelines:

1. Vaccination: animals must be immunized against diseases. Animals must have had general maintenance vaccine series, which includes vaccinations against rabies, distemper, parvovirus, and any other necessary immunizations. All vaccinations must be current in accordance to State of Missouri codes. Dogs must wear a rabies vaccination tag. Proof of vaccination must be made available to University official upon request.
2. Health: Animals must be in good health. Animals to be housed in University housing must have an annual clean bill of health from licensed veterinarian.
3. Leash: Dogs and other leashed animals must be on leashes at all times.
4. Under Control of Partner/Handler: The animal handler must be in full control of the animal at all times. Care and supervision of the animal is solely the responsibility of its handler
5. Cleanup Rule: The handler should not allow dog to defecate on any property, public or private (except partner's own property) unless handler immediately removes the waste. Waste should be properly disposed of. Individuals with physical disabilities who cannot physically clean up after their own service animal may not be required to pick up and dispose of feces. However, when possible, please ask person nearby to assist you.

## Removal of a Service Dog

An individual with a disability who is accompanied by service animal may be asked to remove the animal if:

1. The animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others. For example, the animal displays aggressive behavior towards others or has a serious illness.
2. The animal causes or would cause substantial physical damage to the property of the University and other community members, including but not limited to students, faculty, staff, and visitors.
3. The animal poses an undue financial and administrative burden to the University.
4. The animal would fundamentally alter the nature of the University's housing and/or general operations.
5. The animal is out of control and the handler/owner does not take effective action to control it. If the out of control behavior happens repeatedly, the handler/owner may be prohibited from bringing the animal into University facilities until the handler/owner can demonstrate that s/he has taken significant steps to mitigate the behavior.
6. The animal is not housebroken.
7. The animal is defined as a dangerous wild animal according to the Revised Statutes of Missouri.
8. The animal is considered a high rabies-risk animal as defined by the Missouri Department of Health and Social Services.
9. The handler/owner does not abide by his/her responsibilities as outlined in this Policy.

## Areas off Limits

While service animals are generally allowed to go anywhere on campus that the handler is allowed to go, there are certain areas where the presence of a service animal fundamentally alters the nature of a program or activity or is disruptive. Examples of the areas that are off limits to service animals include:

1. Research Laboratories: The natural organisms carried by dogs and other animals may negatively affect the outcome of the research. At the same time, the chemicals and/or organisms used in the research may be harmful to service animals.
2. Mechanical Rooms/Custodial Closets: Mechanical rooms, such as boiler rooms, facility equipment rooms, electric closets, elevator control rooms and custodial closets, are off-limits to service animals. The machinery and/or chemicals in these rooms may be harmful to animals.
3. Food Preparation Areas: Food preparation areas are off limits to service animals per health codes.
4. Areas Where Protective Clothing is Necessary: Any room where protective clothing is worn is off-limits to service animals. Examples impacting students include the kiln, chemistry laboratories, wood shops and metal/machine shops.
5. Areas Where There is a Danger to the Service Animal: Any room, including a classroom, 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., molten metal or glass); where there is a high level of dust; or where there is moving machinery is off-limits to service animals.

Questions regarding areas that are off limits to service animals should be directed to the Office of Accessibility, or in the laboratory setting, the laboratory instructor. Exceptions may be granted in some circumstances.

## 4.0 HISTORY

This policy may be revised, edited, changed or removed at any time with or without notice to applicable individuals.

## 5.0 RELATED DOCUMENTS

