

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BOARD POLICY

7.40050 BP

SERVICE ANIMALS

7.40050 BP

Background: Service animals are animals that are individually trained for the benefit of individuals with disabilities, as defined by applicable regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Some of the common tasks performed by service animals are: guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling wheelchairs, fetching items, alerting people with autism to distracting or repetitive movements, and alerting and protecting people who have seizure disorders. An animal does not have to be licensed or certified as a service animal.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), colleges and universities must allow individuals with disabilities to bring their service animals into all areas of the facility that are open to the public or to students.

I. Policies Regarding Service Animals and their Partners/Handlers

- A. Accommodations, including the assistance of a service animal.
- B. Licenses: Service animals must be licensed in compliance with state and/or local laws as required for non-service animals.
- C. Health of the service animal: Service animals must be in good health. If a service animal is ill, the animal's handler will be asked to leave.
- D. Control: Service animals must be on a leash or in a harness at all times and under the personal control of the handler. Service animals must be under the full control of their handlers at all times. The care and supervision of the service animal is the responsibility of the handler.

II. Documentation Requirements

There is no requirement for documentation to prove that the animal has had particular training or is a "certified" service animal. The animal is not required to wear a certain kind of harness with identification, although all service animals must be on a leash or a harness at all times.

III. Therapy Animals and Companion Animals

Many individuals with disabilities are comforted and emotionally supported by the presence of a therapy animal or a companion animal. Such animals are not service animals. Therapy animals and companion animals are not required to be allowed on the premises.

Miniature Horses who have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for individuals with disabilities may be allowed into facilities where reasonable.

Approved: Board of Trustees
August 20, 2015