

Service Animal Policy

The University of New England (“UNE” or “University”) Service Animal Policy is used to outline rules for the presence of service animals, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), while on campus and in the residence halls.

The Americans with Disabilities Act defines service animals as “dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.” Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. 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. Service animals are working animals, not pets. If an animal meets this definition, it is considered a service animal regardless of whether it has been licensed or certified by a state or local government or a training program.

The person a service animal assists is referred to as a partner. The partner’s disability may not be visible. A service dog can be any breed or size. It might wear specialized equipment such as a backpack, harness, or special collar or leash, but this is not a legal requirement.

The ADA allows service animals accompanying persons with disabilities to be on the UNE campus. Service animals are allowed to accompany the partner at all times on campus except where service animals are specifically prohibited, in situations where safety may be compromised, where the presence of the animal may compromise a sterile environment or where the service animal may interfere with the fundamental nature of the activities being conducted. Partners have the right to bring the service animal into food service locations.

In case of an emergency, every effort will be made to keep the animal with its partner.

A service-dog-in-training is a dog, accompanied by its trainer, that is undergoing individual training to provide specific disability-related work or service for an individual with a disability. This does not include obedience training or socialization of puppies who may later become service animals. Instead, service animals in training begin their training only after this period of socialization, generally 15-18 months long. In Maine, professional trainers of service dogs (an

employee of a nonprofit agency) may come to campus to engage the dog in training activities. Trainers are asked to notify the Student Disability Access Center before bringing the dog to campus.

Section I. Requirements of Service Animals and their Partners

Service animals are expected to meet the following requirements:

- The animal cannot pose a direct threat to the health and safety of persons on the university campus.
- The animal must be in good health and be well-groomed and cared for. University personnel are not required to provide care or food for the animal.
- Local ordinances regarding animals apply to service animals, including requirements for immunization, licensing, noise, restraint, and at-large animals. Dogs must wear a license tag and a current rabies vaccination tag.
- The partner must be in full control of the animal at all times. 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. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.
- The partner is required to clean up after and properly dispose of the animal's waste in a safe and sanitary manner and, when provided, must use animal relief areas designated by UNE. The partner should always carry equipment and bags sufficient to clean up and properly dispose of the animal's waste. Partners who are not physically able to pick up and dispose of waste are responsible for making all necessary arrangements for assistance. The University is not responsible for these services.
- As much as possible, the partner should ensure that the service animal does not approach and sniff other individuals, dining tables, or the personal belongings of others.
- The partner must assure that the service animal does not block identified fire/emergency exits.
- The partner must assure that the service animal does not display behaviors or noises that are deemed disruptive to others, unless said noise/behaviors are part of the needed disability service to the partner.
- A student with a disability planning to have a service animal in residence in campus housing should consult with the Student Disability Access Center.

Section II. Service Animals in Residence in University Housing

If the partner is planning to have the service animal in residence in university housing, sufficient notice of the intent must be given to the Housing office to be able to make appropriate arrangements regarding placement, roommates, etc.

An individual with a disability may be charged for any damage caused by his or her service animal beyond reasonable wear and tear to the same extent that it charges other individuals for damages beyond reasonable wear and tear. The University strongly recommends that the

partner have appropriate liability insurance in the event of an animal bite, scratch, etc. Upon the partner vacating the residence hall or removal of the animal, the condition of the room/suite shall be assessed for necessary cleaning and if there is damage that exceeds normal wear and tear, the partner will be charged.

The partner's living accommodations may also be inspected for fleas, ticks or other pests if necessary as part of the University's standard or routine inspections. If fleas, ticks or other pests are detected through inspection, the residence will be treated using approved fumigation methods by a University-approved pest control service. The partner will be billed for the expense of any pest treatment above and beyond standard pest management in the residence halls. The University shall have the right to bill the partner's account for unmet obligations under this provision.

Section III. Removal of Service Animal

It may be necessary to ask that a service animal be removed from the premises if the dog is out of control, aggressive to others, or significantly disruptive and you do not take proper action to control the animal, or if the dog is not housebroken. If it is necessary to ask that the dog be removed, every effort will be made to assure that the partner still has access to the programs or services of the institution without the animal.