



Service Animals in Laboratory Settings Policy

Alverno College seeks to support an inclusive campus environment and welcomes the presence of trained service animals assisting individuals with disabilities on College property. As part of this commitment, the College intends all students to be safe and successful in science lab classroom situations. The following guidance is intended for instructional faculty teaching in laboratory areas and students who are service animal handlers utilizing these areas.

What is a service animal?

A service animal is defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as a dog trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The work or task a service animal has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding a person who is blind, alerting a person who is 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, and providing balance to an individual with a mobility disability. No identification of the service dog is needed, although identification through the use of a service animal vest is recommended. Dogs used for emotional support, therapy, comfort, companions, and dogs-in-training are not considered qualified service dogs.

Safety/hazard considerations

Students requiring a service animal should consider the potential hazards present in the lab when making decisions about their animal. Students who require the use of a service animal in labs assume responsibility for all risks involved in the use of the service animal in lab areas, including the risk of exposure to hazardous materials and objects.

Responsibilities

Service dog owner shall be responsible for:

- Connecting with the Student Accessibility Office to arrange a meeting with the course lab instructor and appropriate lab manager *before* the beginning of the semester to discuss service dog arrangements
- Signing the **Service Animals in Laboratory Settings Policy Student Agreement (See Appendix C)** prior to the first day of the lab course. A copy of the agreement will be housed in Student Accessibility, and a copy provided the student and the instructor.
- Ensuring that the dog has received the proper training so it will be safe and not disruptive during the lab.
- Ensuring the dog is well-behaved and does not cause a disruption, distraction, or injury to others in the area
- Following the guidelines and requirements listed in the **Needs Assessment Form (See Appendix B)**
- Providing any necessary personal protective equipment for the dog (**See Appendix A**)
- Cleaning the required mat used and storing it in a lab-instructor-designated location after each lab session
- If appropriate PPE is not brought to the lab, the service dog will not be permitted in to the laboratory.

The Alverno Student Accessibility Coordinator shall be responsible for:

- assisting students intending to bring a service dog in a laboratory and requesting the student to complete a **Needs Assessment Form (See Appendix B)**
- collaborating with the student, instructor, lab manager and other appropriate campus personnel in an interactive process to ensure safety for a service animal in a lab classroom

Lab instructors shall be responsible for:

- Discussing the college requirements for service animals in a science lab setting with the student.
- Responding to any disruptions by discussing the situation first with the owner
- Contacting Campus Security to report animal behavior problems that do not resolve

Procedures for instructors and student dog handler

- A student should be permitted to keep the service dog as close as is safe for the student and the dog. Placement will vary based on safety concerns per course and room.
- The use of gates, pens, or kennels may be appropriate. The student is responsible for providing this equipment.
- A service dog must be protected as is expected of the student to prevent exposure to hazardous chemicals, broken glass, or other hazards that might be present in the laboratory environment. The owner must provide protective equipment such as reusable boots, eye protection, and body covering (**See Appendix A**).

- Service dogs will not be allowed into the laboratory without the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Owners are responsible for the cleanup and disposal of urine, feces or vomit
- Faculty and staff are not allowed to request any medical documentation for the dog, require that the dog demonstrate its task, or inquire about the nature of the person's disability
- Service dogs can only be excluded from the laboratory if:
 - the dog is out of control, and the handler doesn't take effective action to control it;
 - the dog is not housebroken;
 - the dog's presence can interfere with the outcomes of the experiments or if the substances used can be hazardous to the dog.

Access should not be denied without consultation between the student, professor, lab instructor, and Student Accessibility Coordinator.

Behavior expectations of service dogs

- If the service dog is present in the lab, the dog must be trained to "stay" and "leave it" (or equivalent behavior).
- The dog must not vocalize, bark, or growl inappropriately.
- If the dog is trained to alert by vocalizing, the instructor must be aware of the circumstances under which the dog would vocalize. Disruptive, extended vocalizing, or barking will not be permitted unless in proper context.
- The dog must not behave aggressively towards other people – snapping, snarling, growling, charging, swiping, etc.
- The dog must not jump up on other people
- The people in the laboratory will be informed that the dog is a service dog and always working during the class period
- Classmate interaction with the dog is by permission of the owner and only permitted outside the laboratory

If the service dog displays inappropriate behaviors, the dog will not be permitted in any laboratory. The student may appeal in writing for re-access of the animal to lab to a group to include the Chair of Natural Sciences Math and Technology (NSMT) Division, the Student Accessibility Coordinator, and the Campus Safety Director by providing rationale as to why the dog is no longer a disruptive element in lab situations.



Appendix A – Examples of Required PPE Equipment for Service Animal

(Sizes of equipment will vary based on size of dog)

Safety goggles:

https://www.amazon.com/NAMSAN-Sunglasses-Transparent-Windproof-Anti-Dust/dp/B08CGBK9YM/ref=sr_1_5?crid=1H82X06AWPOVP&keywords=dog%2Bsafety%2Bgoggles&qid=1660163999&srefix=dog%2Bsafety%2Bgoggles%2Caps%2C80&sr=8-5&th=1

Rubber booties:

https://www.amazon.com/MOKCCI-Truelove-Waterproof-Reflective-Straps/dp/B08LYP9RVF/ref=sr_1_2_sspa?crid=2NCC2Y9WUI1FE&keywords=dog+rubber+booties&qid=1660164125&srefix=dog+rubber+booties%2Caps%2C78&sr=8-2-spons&psc=1

Raincoat (clothing):

https://www.amazon.com/Olsa-Raincoat-Reflective-Transparent-Resistant/dp/B08CGQD925/ref=sr_1_6?keywords=dog+lab+coat&qid=1660164215&srefix=dog+lab+%2Caps%2C80&sr=8-6

Impermeable Pad (for dog to sit/lay on):

<https://www.primopads.com/about-product/>



Appendix B - Needs Assessment for Service Dog in Laboratory

Please complete and submit this needs assessment to the Student Accessibility Coordinator at derek.blemberg@alverno.edu as early as possible but certainly before the start of the first lab class.

Date:

Requestor's Name:

Student ID:

E-mail:

Phone:

Major:

Course/Section:

Building/Room:

Instructor Name:

Service Animal Name:

Service Animal Description (breed, weight, etc.):

Emergency contact for the service animal:

1. Is the dog a service dog required because of a disability?
2. What disability-related task has the dog been trained to perform?
3. Do you require the dog to be with you at all times?
4. If you need the dog to be with you only under certain circumstances, what are those circumstances?
5. Have you made planned for a place the dog can stay while you're in a lab and not needing the dog at that time?
6. How does the dog alert?
7. What should the instructor do if the dog alerts?



Appendix C - Service Animals in Laboratory Settings Policy Student Agreement

Please read the following statements and check if you agree.

I, _____, agree to the following:
(Student Name)

_____ I have read the Alverno College Service Animals in Laboratory Settings Policy.

_____ I understand that it is my responsibility to obtain all necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) for my service animal and it is my responsibility to see that the dog wears all required PPE at all times in the lab if my service animal is not in a crate. If my service animal does not have the necessary PPE or will not wear PPE, I will be responsible for making alternate arrangements for my service animal during lab course hours.

_____ I understand that my service animal must be under my control and display appropriate behavior at all times. If my service animal displays inappropriate behavior, the College may take steps to remove it from the laboratory setting.

_____ I understand that the safety of my service animal is my sole responsibility; the College is not responsible for the loss, injury, or evacuation of my service animal.

Student Signature

Date