

Appendix A:

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING Accommodating Students with Service Animals in Teaching Laboratories

A Service Animal is permitted to accompany people with disabilities who are otherwise qualified to access campus spaces, including laboratories to the extent consistent with the below, so long as such access can be achieved safely. Laboratories are unique spaces that often contain hazards necessitating specific precautions and equipment for those authorized to utilize the space safely and successfully. Faculty and staff are not allowed to request any medical documentation for the Service Animal, require that the Service Animal demonstrate its task, or inquire about the nature of the person's disability.

Service Animals will not be allowed into Clarkson College labs without the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). The specific PPE items for each lab will be identified by the course faculty, program director, and Accommodations Coordinator. The Service Animal's owner is financially responsible for the cost of any required PPE.

So long as the Service Animal may safely perform its task in the laboratory, Service Animals can only be excluded from the laboratory if:

- The Service Animal is out of control or disruptive, and the individual utilizing the services of the Service Animal fails to take effective action to control it.
 - The Service Animal is not housebroken.
 - The Service Animal will not or cannot wear the required personal protective equipment (PPE), or the Service Animal's PPE is compromised.
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- A Service Animal may be immediately excluded from the lab in these instances; however, the student will be permitted to make up the lab at the discretion of the faculty. The faculty member on site in the laboratory is authorized to make an initial assessment that the Service Animal is out of control. Being out of control may include, but is not limited to, barking or jumping in a manner unrelated to the task the animal performs, growling or other threatening behaviors aimed at others in the laboratory, and behavior not focused on the owner that distracts others present in the lab.
 - If a faculty member assesses that the Service Animal is out of control or engaging in inappropriate behavior, they must report the exclusion of the Service Animal within 24 hours to the Clarkson College Accommodations Coordinator. If the Service Animal displays behaviors that are out of control, the Service Animal will not be permitted in the laboratory until documented and demonstrated re-training has occurred.
 - Upon report of exclusion or out-of-control/inappropriate behavior by a Service Animal in a laboratory, the Accommodations Coordinator will endeavor to meet with the student and employee within five (5) * days of the exclusion to assess whether the exclusion will be lifted, whether an alternative accommodation will be put in place, or whether any other action is needed.

Procedures for Owners of Service Animals

1. Owners are responsible for ensuring that their Service Animal entering a laboratory is protected to prevent exposure to hazardous chemicals, broken glass, or other health or safety concerns that might be present in the laboratory environment.

*Excludes weekend, holidays and/or days when Clarkson College is closed.

2. Owners are responsible for purchasing the appropriate PPE for their Service Animal and ensuring the PPE is worn by the Service Animal at all times within the laboratory. PPE may include the following:
 - Disposable or reusable boots to cover the feet such as commercially available products (Pawz Rubber Dog Boots)
 - Disposable lab coats such as Maytex lab coat
 - Safety goggles
 - Disposable plastic-backed absorbent lab paper or pet pads for the Service Animal to lie on during lab to protect them from whatever might be on the floor.
3. If appropriate PPE is not brought to the lab, or if the Service Animal does not remain fully attired for the lab period, then the Service Animal will not be permitted into the laboratory. The Accommodations Coordinator and faculty will be the resources to determine the efficacy of selected PPE.
4. Owners are solely responsible for dressing their Service Animal with the appropriate PPE, removing these garments, and ensuring they are kept clean from contaminants.
5. If PPE is damaged, the owner is responsible for notifying the faculty member on site. If the faculty member deems that the compromised PPE will not sufficiently protect the Service Animal, the owner and Service Animal must leave the lab immediately and either remedy the situation before being allowed to return or make arrangements for a makeup lab. The student is responsible for ordering any necessary PPE for the Service Animal.
6. In the event of contamination of the Service Animal's PPE, the owner is responsible for cleaning the PPE in a manner in accordance with laboratory procedures.
7. If the Service Animal comes into direct contact with a contaminant, the owner is responsible for ensuring the Service Animal is safely decontaminated and that any necessary follow-up veterinary care occurs. The owner must notify the faculty member on site of the contamination.
8. A Service Animal fabric pad is inappropriate for lab use. Instead, if the Service Animal utilizes a mat, the mat should be made from a chemical-resistant material.
9. Animal toys, food, treats, and water bowls may not be brought into a laboratory.

Laboratory Hazards

Biological Materials:

An assessment must be completed by the faculty and Accommodations Coordinator before the admittance of a Service Animal in a laboratory utilizing any biological material.

Service Animals are generally not permitted in laboratories utilizing unsealed radioactive sources or biological agents. In contrast, sealed sources (such as irradiators and x-ray machines) pose no risk of contamination and subsequent spread of contamination. Nonetheless, all proper precautions for the individual equipment must still be followed.

Radioactive Materials:

Service Animals are not permitted in laboratories where radioactive materials are used.

Location of Service Animal During Lab

In assessing where the animal will be located in the laboratory, the Accommodations Coordinator and faculty member may meet to consider alternatives to positioning the Service Animal in the lab next to the individual, provided this consideration has been discussed with the handler first.

Alternatives may include placing the Service Animal behind a removable gate in a pen in an adjacent room or on a mat away from hazards. In this situation, the student is responsible for acquiring these items, setting them up before the lab, and properly storing them following the lab.

If a location next to the person is required, the Accommodations Coordinator and faculty member will consider a location at the end of a table or in a corner space away from other students, personnel, and activities.

Behavior Expectations & Statement of Understanding:

Service Animals must always remain under the handler's control. Your Service Animal must not show aggression toward other animals or people in the laboratory. As a Service Animal owner, you are responsible for any damage or mess caused by your Service Animal. If you wish to grant permission for anyone in the lab to interact with your Service Animal, doing so must not disrupt laboratory work or instruction.

If the Service Animal behaves inappropriately, you will be asked to remove your Service Animal from the lab.

I have read, understood, and agree to the content of this acknowledgement.

Student Name (Print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Faculty Name (Print): _____

Faculty Signature: _____

Date: _____

Accommodations Coordinator Signature: _____

Date: _____

*Excludes weekend, holidays and/or days when Clarkson College is closed.