SONORAN UNIVERSITY
OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Service Animals on Campus Policy

1. **POLICY STATEMENT/PURPOSE**
   Animals are generally not permitted in University spaces, except as otherwise required by law (e.g., service animals), or as specifically permitted and approved for a particular instance or purpose at the discretion of the University.

   Sonoran University of Health Sciences is committed to inclusion and participation of people with disabilities as well as compliance with state and federal laws regarding individuals with disabilities. Service animals that accompany persons with disabilities may accompany the individual with a disability (handler) everywhere on campus except in situations where safety or sterility may be compromised, or where the service animal may interfere with the fundamental nature of the activities being conducted. Other animals are generally not allowed on campus unless prior approval has been obtained.
   a.

2. **HISTORY/BACKGROUND**
   The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), defines a service animal as “any animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.”

3. **DEFINITION(S)**
   a. **Disability:** A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a record of such an impairment, or being regarded as having such an impairment.
   b. **Emotional Support Animals:** any animal that provides emotional support, well-being, comfort or companionship. Emotional support animals do not have special training to perform tasks that assist people with disabilities and are not considered service animals under the ADA and have no legally protected right to access University spaces.
   c. **Handler**: Owner, or individual bringing an animal onto University property.
   d. **Indoor Public Access Areas**: Lim Commons lobby, café, Medicinary and lobbies of the Medical Center and Neil Riordan Center.
   e. **Major Life Activity:** Functions such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, manual dexterity and exteroception (sensing the environment), breathing, walking, standing, lifting, bending, talking, hearing, seeing, eating, learning, reading, concentrating, communication and thinking. Also included are functional impairments to major bodily systems caused by chronic health conditions and diseases.
   f. **Members**: Students (including deposited student applicants) and employees.
   g. **Member-Only Access Areas**: Classrooms, 2nd Floor of Lim Commons, Library, offices, yoga room, gym, laboratories, Academic Building.
   h. **Non-Members:** Visitors, patients, customers.
   i. **Outside Areas**: University property outdoors, including parking lots, sidewalks, and gardens.
   j. **Service Animal:** A dog or in rare cases, a miniature horse, that is individually trained (or in training) to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other

mental disability. (A.R.S. § 11-1024(M)(5).) The work or task must be directly related to the individual's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort or companionship do *not* constitute work or tasks. (A.R.S. § 11-1024(A).)

k. **Service Animals-in-Training:** A service animal in training is an animal who is not yet trained to do a specific task or work to support a disability of the handler but is being trained to do so. Disabled individuals and trainers may take animals being trained as service animals into public places for training purposes.
l. **Student Applicants**: Includes applicants who have signed the Policies Acknowledgement.
m. **Therapy Animals**: registered with or certified by an animal-assisted intervention organization after successful training, behavioral and veterinary evaluation. Therapy animals assist in a service program approved by Dean of Students or Human Resources with a request made by the employee or student organization offering the program. Typical programs include visiting students or patients to relieve stress.

4. SCOPE/KEY STAKEHOLDERS

This policy applies to all Members and non-Members, including students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

5. POLICY ITEMS

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Arizona state law, the University permits service animals in university spaces, as follows:

a. The service animal must qualify as a "service animal," as defined in this policy:
    i. The animal is a dog or, in rare cases, a miniature horse.
    ii. The animal has been individually trained to do work or perform specific tasks directly related to the student's, employee's or non-member's disability.
    iii. *In support of this requirement, the University may ask the owner the following questions (unless the answer is obvious):
        i. Is the animal a service animal required because of a disability?
        ii. What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?
    iv. *The University may not: (a) ask specific questions about the owner's disability; (b) ask that the service animal demonstrate the task/work the animal has been trained to perform; or (c) ask for or require documentation to prove that the animal is a service animal.
b. The service animal must be housebroken. A.R.S. § 11-1024(B)(5).

    i. *In support of this requirement, the University may ask if the animal is housebroken and may tell the owner/handler that, if not housebroken, the animal may be excluded from university spaces.

c. Service animals are not pets; they are considered medical equipment that assists individuals with disabilities. Their presence is a necessity, not a personal choice or comfort measure. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) recognizes service animals as working animals, not pets, and they must be treated as such. However, because service animals are still legally classified as dogs (or, in rare cases, miniature horses), they must comply with local animal licensing regulations (Tempe City Code §§ 6-28, 6-30). This requirement applies to all dogs, regardless of service animal status, and does not mean that a service dog must be registered or certified as a service animal. Additionally, Tempe waives the licensing fee for service dogs, so while they must be registered per local regulations, no fee is required for handlers of service animals." The service animal must be licensed—not as a service animal, but in accordance with local animal licensing regulations. (Tempe City Code §§ 6-28, 6-30.)
    i. *In support of this requirement, the University may ask for confirmation of compliance with licensing requirements.
d. The service animal must be up to date on vaccinations required by local animal vaccination regulations. (Tempe City Code § 6-29.)
    i. *In support of this requirement, the University may ask for confirmation of compliance with vaccination requirements.
e. The service animal must be harnessed, leashed, or otherwise appropriately tethered at all times on University spaces, unless: (a) the handler's disability prevents this, or (b) such tethering would interfere with the service animal ability to perform its work/task.
    i. If a tethering device exception applies, the handler must nevertheless maintain control of the service animal at all times through voice, signal, or other equally effective means. The service animal is not allowed to roam freely and may not be left without the handler's supervision, unless the service animal is required to do so to perform a specific disability-related task. A.R.S. § 11-1024(E), (M)(6).
f. The service animal must otherwise be under the handler's control at all times. This includes taking effective action to ensure that the service animal does not bark repeatedly in classrooms or other quiet spaces and does not otherwise interfere with other students' or employees' ability to complete their educational or employment duties, including interference in the form of mental distress. A.R.S. § 11-1024(B)(4).
g. The service animal must not: (a) pose a direct threat to health or safety; (b) fundamentally alter the nature of the University goods, services or activities, under applicable circumstances; (c) the service animal does not impose an undue burden. A.R.S. § 11-1024(B).
h. A service animal may be excluded from University spaces for failure to comply with the foregoing requirements, following a reasonable opportunity for the handler to achieve compliance unless immediate removal is required for health and safety reasons.
i. Per Arizona state law, and under penalty of a civil fine, a person may not fraudulently misrepresent an animal as a service animal or service animal in training to a person or entity that operates a public place. A.R.S. § 11-1024(K).

j. The handler is solely responsible for the service animal's care and supervision on University spaces.
k. The handler is personally liable/responsible for any injury or damage that may be caused by the handler's service animal. A.R.S. § 11-1024(F).
    i. This includes cleaning up the animal's waste. Handlers of service animals should direct their animals to relieve themselves in areas that do not contaminate the plants and soil in the medicinal garden.
l. While service animals do not require approval by the University as an accommodation, handlers should notify their faculty or Manager that they will bring a service animal on campus.
    i. If the service animal will be on campus regularly, it is highly recommended (though not required) that the handler obtain a Sonoran University ID badge for the service animal via Dean of Students Office or Human Resources. Such a voluntary registry facilitates ease of identification.
m. APPROVALS - Other animals, including pets, assistance animals, emotional support animals, or therapy animals are not recognized under federal or state law and are not permitted on University spaces, absent exceptional circumstances, and subject to specific, advance approval from the University. Requests for exceptional circumstances approval may be submitted to the Dean of Students or Human Resources.
n. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS
    i. Students, staff, and non-members on University property should refrain from engaging with (e.g., petting, holding, and playing with) service animals, as such engagement may interfere with the service animal's ability to perform the task(s) for which they have been trained.
    ii. Where may I bring my service animal or service animal-in-training?

Outside Areas	**Indoor Public Access Areas**	**Member-Only Access Areas**	**Clinics** (refer to clinic policy)
Yes	Yes	Yes, for handlers who are Members Yes, for handlers who are Non-members who have permission from the appropriate party to enter Member-Only Access Areas	Yes; except for compounding, Ric Scalzo sterile laboratory, fluoroscopy and other sterile spaces, (not permitted for health and safety reasons, among others). Cadaver lab, acupuncture and needle-stick labs are not considered sterile spaces, and service animals may be present.

6. RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Academics
Student Affairs

Clinic Operations
Human Resources
Security

7. RELATED DOCUMENTS

Clinical SOPs - Service Animals in Clinical Spaces
Student Handbook – Code of Conduct & Academic Honor
Student Handbook – Student Grievances
Employee Handbook – Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
Clinical Handbook – Operations Guidelines

8. NEXT REVIEW DATE

Annually

9. POLICY OWNER

Associate Dean of Students – Student Affairs (DOS@sonoran.edu)
Director, Human Resources (HR@sonoran.edu)

10. REFERENCES

a. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 42 United States Code § 12101 et seq.
b. EEOC – Title 1 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
c. Arizonans with Disabilities Act of 1992, Arizona Revised Statutes § 9–499.02; 41–1492 et seq.
d. Arizona Revised Statutes § 11-1024 (Service Animals; rights of individuals with disabilities; violation; classification; fraudulent misrepresentation; civil penalty; definitions)
e. ADA Amendment Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-325)
f. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 United States Code §§ 701–796
g. University of Arizona
h. College and University Professional Association (CUPA).
i. Arizona Center for Disability Law
j. Arizona State Legislature
k. ADA National Network: Information, Guidance and Training on the Americans with Disabilities Act
l. American Veterinary Medical Association
m. FAQ about Service Animals and the ADA (https://www.ada.gov/resources/service-animals-faqs/)
n. Arizona Attorney General Civil Rights Guide: Service, support, and assistance animals (2023) (https://www.azag.gov/sites/default/files/docs/civil-rights/acrab/ACRAB%20ESA%20Guide_v2.pdf)

11. VERSION CONTROL AND CHANGE HISTORY

Version	Approved by	Date Approved	Date Effective	Amendment Information
1	President's Council	5/28/2025	7/7/2025	New Policy
2				
3				