

University of Colorado Boulder: Service and Assistance Animal Guidelines

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) recognizes that individuals with certain types of disabilities may require animal assistance while on campus. There are two categories of animals that may be allowed on campus to provide assistance to individuals with disabilities: service animals and assistance animals. This document provides an overview of what animals qualify and things to consider if you are requesting to have an animal on the CU Boulder campus as a disability related accommodation.

Definitions

SERVICE ANIMALS

A service animal refers to any dog 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. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the person's disability, including, but not limited to:

- Assisting individuals with low vision or blindness
- Alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Pulling a wheelchair or stabilizing a person's gait
- Retrieving items such as medicine, food, or a telephone
- Recognizing and assisting a person having a seizure
- Informing individuals who may be experiencing flashbacks of emotional trauma

Subject to some limitations, service animals may accompany students, employees or the general public, throughout campus. When a **person's disability is obvious**, CU Boulder does not require documentation, such as proof that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal. Individuals accompanied by a service animal on campus who do not need any other disability-related accommodations are not required to register with Disability Services or the ADA Coordinator's office.

- **Employees with a Service Animal in the Workplace:** Employees who have a need for service or assistance animals as a workplace accommodation must contact ADA Compliance at adacoordinator@colorado.edu. Please visit their website <https://www.colorado.edu/oiec/ada-accessibility/employment-accommodations> for more information. If an employee makes a request to utilize a service animal to the employee's supervisor, the supervisor should refer the employee to ADA Compliance, while also contacting the ADA Compliance unit directly to communicate the request.

When it is not obvious that a dog is a service animal, it is recommended that students make an appointment with Disability Services to assist in easing your service animal's transition to campus. Employees should contact the ADA Coordinator to go through the accommodation process.

CU Boulder recommends service animals be identifiable by wearing a vest or harness. Service animals must be housebroken (i.e., trained so that it controls its waste elimination, absent illness or accident) and must be kept under control by voice, signals, or other effective means. Service animals must not be disruptive or active in any classroom situation.

CU Boulder will assess requests for the use of miniature horses by people with disabilities on a case-by-case basis. Requests should be submitted to Disability Services, consistent with applicable laws, CU Boulder may make modifications to its policies to permit their use if they have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability.

Service Animals in Training: Colorado law allows dogs on campus who are being trained specifically as service animals for individuals with disabilities.

ASSISTANCE ANIMALS

An assistance animal provides emotional or other support that minimizes one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's disability. This group includes therapy animals, emotional support, or comfort animals. Unlike service animals, assistance animals are not required to be trained to perform work or tasks, and they include species other than dogs and miniature horses.

Assistance animals are generally not allowed to accompany persons with disabilities in any academic or public areas of campus. In some instances, students with disabilities may be allowed to have an assistance animal within campus housing facilities with prior approval. See contact information below.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES USING SERVICE/ASSISTANCE ANIMALS

Individuals with disabilities are responsible for the cost, care, and supervision of their service or assistance animals, including:

- compliance with any laws pertaining to animal licensing, vaccination, and owner identification;
- keeping the animal under control at all times; and
- feeding and walking the animal and disposing of animal waste.

CU Boulder will not require any surcharges or fees related to service/assistance animals. Individuals may be charged for damage caused by any animal.

Individuals with disabilities who are accompanied by service/assistance animals must comply with the same university rules regarding noise, safety, disruption, and cleanliness as people without disabilities.

All persons shall promptly comply with any university directive to remove their animal from an area in which it was previously authorized if:

- it is out of control and effective action is not taken to control it;
- it is not housebroken; or
- it poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others that cannot be mitigated by reasonable modifications of policies, practices, or procedures, or the provision of auxiliary aids or services.

GUIDELINES FOR MEMBERS OF THE CU BOULDER COMMUNITY

To ensure equal access and nondiscrimination of individuals with disabilities, members of the CU Boulder community must abide by the following practices:

- Allow service animals to accompany people with disabilities on campus;
- Do not ask for details about a person's disabilities;
- Do not pet, interact, or feed a service animal, as it distracts the animal from its work;
- Do not deliberately startle, tease, or taunt a service animal; and
- Do not separate or attempt to separate a person from his/her service animal.
- Provide individuals with service animals with the **right of way** with respect to cyclists and skateboarders.

When it is not obvious a dog is a service animal, the following inquiries are permitted:

- (1) Is the dog required because of a disability?
- (2) What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?

CU Boulder is committed to ensuring that the needs of all people with disabilities are met and will determine how to resolve any conflicts or problems as expeditiously as possible.

LEGAL REFERENCES

The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
Fair Housing Act
Colorado Revised Statutes

Contact Information

Students

Resources/Grievances -students	Disability Services Center for Community, Suite 200 303.492.8691 www.dsinfo@colorado.edu http://disabilityservices.colorado.edu/
Bringing an animal to university housing.	Housing and Dining Services/Occupancy Management 303-492-6673

Faculty/Staff

Resources/Grievances - employees	ADA Coordinator adacoordinator@colorado.edu 303-492-0956
Resources - Reporting a concern about disability discrimination or harassment.	Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (303) 492-2127