

## **Limestone College Service Animal Guidelines**

Limestone College follows the ADA and the most recent guidance from the Department of Justice regarding service animals. In accordance with ADA and DOJ, Limestone College suggests the following guidelines for approved service animals on campus.

### **Definition of Service Animal**

Service animals are defined by ADA and DOJ 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. Service animals are working animals, not pets. 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”.

### **Handler’s Responsibilities**

1. Under the ADA, 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.
2. The handler is financially responsible for the actions of the approved service animal. These actions include bodily injury and/or property damage and handlers must take appropriate precautions to prevent injury and/or property damage. Any damage to Limestone College property caused by the service animal or above and beyond normal maintenance cleaning will be charged to the handler’s Limestone College student account.
3. At all times, the cost of care and maintenance of health and well-being are the sole responsibility of the handler. The service animal must abide by local ordinances regarding vaccinations and proper licensure.
4. As much as possible, the handler should ensure that the service animal does not approach and sniff other individuals, dining tables, or the personal belongings of others.
5. The handler must assure that the service animal does not block identified fire/emergency exits.
6. The handler 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 handler.
7. Waste cleanup is the sole responsibility of the handler. If the handler is not physically capable of cleaning up after the service animal, the handler must hire someone who is physically capable and incur the cost of such hire. Service animal waste cleanup should include appropriate waste clean-up equipment and proper disposal of waste in an appropriate container. An appropriate container is an outside receptacle (i.e. dumpsters).
8. If the service dog is residing in university housing, the handler is asked to provide Accessibility with emergency contact information for an individual should the handler be unable to care for the

service animal at any time. A current Limestone College student or personnel are not appropriate choices for an emergency contact.

9. If any roommates have concerns about sharing their living quarters with the SA, someone may be asked to shift to an alternative living arrangement. Such decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

### **Service Animals on campus**

Service animals may travel freely with their handler while on campus. Limestone College may prohibit the use of Service Animals in certain locations based on health and safety restrictions. Restricted areas may include, but are not limited to, the following areas: custodial closets, boiler rooms, facility equipment rooms, research laboratories maintaining sterile conditions, classrooms with research/demonstration animals, areas where protective clothing is necessary, sterile environments, and areas outlined in state law as being inaccessible to animals.

### **Removal of Service Animal**

Service animals may be removed from Limestone College premises if:

1. The service animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it. If improper animal behavior happens repeatedly, the handler may be prohibited from bringing the animal into any college facility until the handler can demonstrate that he or she has taken significant steps to mitigate the behavior.
2. The service animal is not housebroken.
3. The service animal is a direct threat. A handler may be directed to remove an animal that Limestone College determines to be a substantial and direct threat to the health and safety of individuals. Any service animal that displays vicious behaviors towards other students, staff, or guests may be excluded from campus.

When there is a legitimate reason to ask that a service animal be removed, Limestone College staff will work with the person with the disability to obtain goods or services without the animal's presence.

*\*Adapted from University of St. Francis Service Animal Procedures*