

WHITE MOUNTAINS COMMUNITY COLLEGE PETS ON CAMPUS POLICY

White Mountains Community College does not allow animals and/or pets of any kind within campus building(s) but for the following three exceptions:

- Animals in the care of and/or that are being used as part of the learning process in the Veterinary Assistant program.
- Any service dog, guide dog, or signal dog assisting an individual with a disability.
- Occasional WMCC events in which prior approval from College Leadership has been granted.

Service Animals

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a service animal as ‘a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability.’ Examples of such work or tasks include 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, regardless of whether they have been licensed or certified by a state or local government.

Examples of Types of Service Animals

Guide Dog: A dog that is trained to serve as a travel tool for individuals who are blind or have low vision.

Hearing Dog: A dog trained to alert deaf persons or those with significant hearing loss to sounds such as knocks on doors, fire alarms, phone ringing, etc.

Service Dog (Assistance Dog): A dog trained to assist a person with a mobility or health impairment. Types of duties the dog may perform include carrying, fetching, opening doors, ringing doorbells, activating elevator buttons, steadying a person while walking, assisting a person to get up after a fall, etc.

Sig (signal) Dog: A dog trained to assist a person with autism. The dog makes a person aware of movements, which may appear distracting to others and are common to those with autism. A person with autism may also have deficits in sensory input and may need service animals to provide similar assistance as is provided to a person who is blind or deaf.

Seizure Response Dog: A dog trained to assist persons with seizure disorders. The method by which the dog serves vary depending on the individual's needs. Some dogs are able to predict seizures and provide advanced warning.

Requirements of Service Animals and Their Handlers

The following generally applies to all approved service animals on campus:

- Service dogs must receive prior approval from the Accessibility Coordinator, Campus Security, and VPSA before coming onto campus. The service animal must be registered through the Accessibility Services Office and the Campus Security Office.

- The service animal must have all veterinarian recommended vaccinations to maintain the animal's health and prevent contagious diseases. Documentation of vaccinations must be provided in advance.
- The service animal must be licensed and have tags in accordance with applicable state and local laws. Documentation of animal licensing must be provided in advance to WMCC. WMCC also reserves the right to request proof of licensing anytime during the animal's residency.
- The service animal must be on a leash, harness, or tether at all times 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 at all times.
- The service animal must be housebroken. Animal waste must be immediately picked up by the owner, placed in a plastic bag, securely tied, and disposed of in an outside trash dumpster.
- The care and supervision of a service animal is solely the responsibility of its handler.
- The handler must be in full control of the animal at all times.
- The service animal must be well-behaved. The handler must ensure that the animal refrains from behavior that threatens the health and safety of others.
- Service animal owners are liable for any incident on college property.
- No animals may be tied up outside buildings or left unattended on campus. It is strongly recommended that animals not be left in vehicles while students or staff members are in the classroom or conducting business. Animals discovered unattended in vehicles in the parking lot may be reported to local law enforcement if it is felt that the animal is not receiving adequate ventilation and/or is in distress of any kind.
- Service Animals in Training: All the above statements apply to service animals in-training.

Interacting with a Service Animal

If it is not obvious what service the animal provides, it is not permissible to ask about the person's disability or request documentation or a demonstration of the work the animal can perform. Permissible inquiries are limited to:

- 1) Is the animal a service animal?
- 2) What work or task is the dog trained to perform?

Members of the campus community shall avoid petting, feeding, or distracting any service animal.

Service Animals in Laboratories

Laboratory classrooms where the service animal is permitted may still require appropriate protective equipment, i.e., dog goggles, booties, or a mat to lie on.

Service animal permitted in a laboratory classroom should be placed out of the way of hazards, should not create an obstacle to other students, and should allow the service animal to keep the student in their line of sight. Possible locations must be discussed with the handler first and may include a location at the end of a bench, in a corner, under a lab bench, under a table, against the wall and/or under a coat rack.

Discussion should take place with student handlers regarding enrollment in certain lab-based courses to determine if the lab is a safe environment for the service animal.

Care and Control of Animals on WMCC Property

- The handler is financially responsible for any damage the animal causes, including bodily injury and property damage beyond reasonable wear and tear.
- The school is not responsible for any harm to an animal while on campus including, but not limited to, injury to the animal caused by pest management or lawn care products.

Exclusion of Animals from WMCC Property

The animal may not be allowed on campus, regardless of training or certification when the animal:

- Exhibits behavior that poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others
- Exhibits behavior that interferes with the educational process
- Behaves in an unacceptable way and the handler does not control the animal
- Is not housebroken, licensed, or properly vaccinated

If the animal is excluded from the property, WMCC shall still afford the individual with a disability the opportunity to participate in its programs or activity without having the service animal on the premise.

For More Information

WMCC Accessibility Services Coordinator: 603-342-3059

WMCC Campus Security: 603-342-3022

https://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm

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