Office of Accessibility Services:
Service Animals on Campus

I. Purpose of the Policy and Guidelines

In Accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and state law, this document details and provides guidance to PCC students, faculty, staff, and members of the community regarding service animals on campus to make sure that we do not discriminate against an individual with a disability who uses a service animal to participate and access our campus activities and facilities. Service animals can be any breed or size of dog or miniature horse that is trained to perform a task directly related to a person's disability. It is important to understand that service animals are not required to go through professional training, are not required to wear a vest or ID indicating that they are a service animal, and do not have to be leashed if this would prevent the animal performing a service to assist the individual with mitigating a disability related issue. The only requirement is that they are under the control of the handler.

II. Definitions

In Accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and state law, a Service Animal is any dog regardless of size or breed or, in certain circumstances, a miniature horse, that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of and to accommodate the functional needs of an individual with a disability. The work or task performed by a Service Animal must be directly related to the individual's disability.

A Service Animal is not a pet. It is an animal that works, provides assistance, or performs tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, or provides support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's disability.

The term disability means, with respect to an individual, a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual; a record of such an impairment; or being regarded as having such an impairment.

III. Policy

Service Animal

In Accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and state law, individuals with disabilities are permitted to be accompanied by their Service Animals at Pitt Community College in all areas of the college where we provide services, programs or activities. Few exceptions exist except where the specific locations have health and safety issues which may include but are not limited to the following:

- Clinical laboratories
- Areas where protective clothing is necessary
- Mechanical rooms
- Other areas where the animal's presence would present a danger to the animal's health or safety or the health or safety of others in the area or compromise a sterile environment

IV. Responsibility of the College

If the need for a Service Animal is clear, individuals may not question the presence of the animal on campus. If the need for a Service Animal is not apparent, members of the campus community are permitted to ask the individual two questions:

1. Is the Service Animal required because of a disability?
2. What work or task(s) has the animal been individually trained to perform?

At no time should the individual be asked questions related to the nature of the disability, require medical documentation, ask for identification or training documentation, or demonstration of the animal's task.

Pitt Community College encourages students to notify the Office of Accessibility Services should they plan to utilize a Service Animal to accompany them on campus. However, they are not required to do so. As mentioned above, the individual with the disability may be asked whether the animal is needed because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to perform.

A Service Animal does not need approval or an accommodation, if it is readily apparent that the dog is trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. The Service Animal owner/handler must ensure the animal is in good health and is current on required immunizations in accordance with local and state regulations.