

Accommodating Students with Disabilities who need Service Animals in Animal Science Teaching Laboratories

General Guidance for Students, Staff, TAs and Course Instructors:

This guidance is a supplement to the UC Davis policy on service animals which is posted at: http://accessibility.ucdavis.edu/service_animals.html. All students, staff, TA's and course instructors should consult this policy with regard to any issues involving service animals.

Scope: This guidance applies to Department of Animal Science students who have disabilities (permanent or temporary) and who need a service animal. It is not intended to substitute for student interaction with the Student Disability Center (SDC). All students with disabilities are encouraged to access the services available through the SDC. This guideline is intended for teaching laboratory situations but also may be used for research laboratory applications.

Goal: It is the intent of the Department of Animal Science to help all students be safe and successful in the teaching laboratories. This goal applies to service animals, as well. Service animals are needed and highly valued and we aim to protect them as best we can.

General Expectations: Service animals must be under the handler's control at all times and must not engage in behavior that may endanger the health or safety of others, or interfere with the research or educational mission. The handler, not the University, is responsible for the animal's care and supervision at all times. A University employee may ask for an animal to be removed if the handler does not comply with the requirements for service animals.

The students, staff, and faculty in the department laboratories should be informed that the animal is a service animal and always working. Interaction with the animal should be by permission of the handler and only outside of the laboratory.

In case of emergency evacuation, precedence is given to evacuation of people.

- I. Animal Science Non-Animal Teaching Laboratories - activities that involve the use of chemicals

Safety Equipment: Service animals entering non-animal chemical laboratories must be protected similar to the protection afforded students in order to prevent exposure to hazardous chemicals, broken glass or other hazards that might be present in the laboratory environment. Protective equipment for the animal is to be provided by the owner and includes:

- A) Booties to cover the feet (e.g., <http://preview.tinyurl.com/jwgdqsqu>)

- B) Disposable lab coat (e.g., available from Vet Med Central Stores <http://www.vmps.ucdavis.edu/Lasso.acgi?-database=Orders.fp3&-response=shop/shop.html&-add> - search for “lab coat” – Maytex coats are considered disposable)
- C) The Department of Animal Science will make available plastic-backed absorbent paper for the animal to lie on during lab to protect the animal from whatever might be on the floor. Animal beds or fabric pads are not appropriate for use in the lab.

II. Animal Science Animal Teaching Laboratories and Animal Facilities

The use of service animals in teaching and research laboratories and animal facilities where UC Davis animals are present must be compatible with the research purpose and the health and safety of all occupants of the laboratory or facility, including students, staff, faculty and the UC Davis animals. Laboratories with animals and animal facilities may be areas where a service animal poses a substantial and direct threat to health and safety that cannot be reduced or eliminated by a reasonable accommodation. An individualized assessment is required before the service animal is denied entry. An individualized assessment may include the nature, duration and severity of the risk, the probability of harm or injury, and the availability of modifications to minimize the risk.

Procedure: Any student with a disability who needs a service animal should contact the department chair or CAO prior to the beginning of the quarter. Chair: Dr. A.M. Oberbauer (amoberbauer@ucdavis.edu, 530-752-1252) or CAO: Kelly Wade (kswade@ucdavis.edu, 530-752-4512).

Students needing a service animal will be asked to review the campus policy and this departmental guidance and sign an acknowledgement that they have done so.

Any staff, TA's, instructors or faculty with questions about the use of service animals in teaching laboratories and/or animal facilities should contact the department chair or CAO.

Please consider adding this text to your syllabus:

"The goal of the Department of Animal Science is to enable students to be safe and successful in the teaching laboratories. The Department has a formal policy regarding the presence of service animals in laboratories and at the animal facilities (http://animalscience.ucdavis.edu/student_information/). Students are required to inform the instructor by the end of the first week of class about any situation that might involve a service animal being in a laboratory course."

Department of Animal Science
Information for Service Animal Handlers

The Department of Animal Science is committed to your safety and success in our laboratory classes and if that success includes the use of a service animal, to make sure your animal is also safe and secure. Laboratories are dangerous places. Hazardous chemicals, open flames, glassware, and electrical equipment are all in use. It is not a good environment for a beloved and precious animal.

If you need to use of a service animal in a teaching laboratory or animal facility, please contact the department chair or CAO the first week of the quarter or with sufficient time prior to the time when you will need access to the facility.

Please review the attached guidance developed by the department to safely facilitate the presence of your service animal. This guidance is not intended to prevent you from having your animal in laboratories, but rather to help us protect your animal's safety and for the safety of the other laboratory occupants.

Please also review the general campus policy on services animals at http://accessibility.ucdavis.edu/service_animals.html. Please understand that a University employee may ask for an animal to be removed if the handler does not comply with the requirements for service animals.

I have read the department guidance and the campus policy on service animals. I understand and agree to these requirements.

Student Name (Print): _____

Signature: _____ Date _____

Classroom or Research Laboratory: _____

I have shared a copy of this agreement and the guidelines with the instructor.

Faculty Member Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date _____