

**HIRAM COLLEGE**  
**SERVICE ANIMAL POLICY**  
**(Effective January 4, 2019)**

Hiram College complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) in allowing the use of “service animals,” and with Ohio law in allowing the use of “animal assistants,” on Hiram College property to assist people (students, employees and visitors) with disabilities in the activities of daily living. Hiram College also allows “Support Animals” (as defined below).

This Hiram College Service and Support Animal Policy (“Policy”) is effective January 4, 2019 and defines a “Service Animal” to mean a “service animal” within the meaning of the ADA as well as an “animal assistant” within the meaning of Ohio law. Unlike “service animals” within the meaning of the ADA or “animal assistants” within the meaning of Ohio law, “support animals” are not required to be trained to perform work or tasks, and they include species other than Service Animals.

- **Policy Requirements**

For an individual to qualify for having a Service Animal on Hiram College property, the following requirements must be met:

- He or she must have a disability as defined by the ADA;
- The Service Animal must be trained to do specific tasks for such disabled individual; and
- The individual must comply with all applicable laws (including, without limitation, all applicable laws relating to the care of the Service Animal) and this Policy.

- **Service Animals, Support Animals and the Law**

Pets and non-research animals are restricted on Hiram College property. However, Service Animals are not excluded from Hiram College property or activities so long as they meet the guidelines set forth in this Policy.

- **Partner/Handler/Team**

For purposes of this Policy, a person with a disability using a Service Animal or a is called a “Partner;” and a person without a disability (approved by Hiram College’s Disability Services office) who assists the Partner with a Service Animal is called a “Handler.” Sometimes a Partner and a Handler work together with a Service Animal, while other times a Partner works solely with a Service Animal (essentially as both a Partner and a Handler). A Partner and/or a Handler and his/her Service Animal are called a “Team.”

- **Basic Requirements of Service Animals and Support Animals**

- **Identification:** If a Service Animal is not wearing a harness, identification tag or other gear that readily identifies its status as a Service Animal, Hiram College officials may ask if the animal is a service animal required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to perform.
- **Control:** The Partner or Handler must be in full control of the Service Animal at all times. The care and supervision of a Service Animal or a Support Animal is **solely the responsibility** of its Partner or Handler
- **Leash or Other Tether:** Except as otherwise provided herein, the Service Anima must be on a leash or other tether at all times unless the Partner is unable because of the Partner's disability to use a leash or other tether or the leash or other tether would prevent the Service Animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the Service Animal must otherwise be under the Partner's or Handler's control (for example, through voice control, signals, or other means).
- **Muzzle:** The Service Animal must be under the Partner's or Handler's control to prevent the Service Animal from biting people. Any animal that poses a direct threat, such as through unprovoked aggression, may be asked to be removed.
- **License and Tags:** Service Animals must be licensed as required by local governing authorities.
- **Health:** Service Animals residing in Hiram College's campus housing must be current with their mandatory vaccinations, as required to comply with local governing authorities' licensing requirements

- **Basic Conditions for Having a Service Animal or a Support Animal on Hiram College Property**

- **Clean-up Rule:** The Partner or Handler must (1) always carry equipment sufficient to clean up the Service Animal's feces and vomit whenever the Service Animal and Partner/Handler are on Hiram College property; and (2) clean and be responsible for the proper disposal of the Service Animal's feces and vomit and for any damage caused by the waste or its removal.
- **Disruption:** The Partner/Handler of a Service Animal that is unruly or disruptive (e.g., barking, running around, bringing attention to itself) may be asked to temporarily remove the Service Animal from the Hiram College facility in which such occurs if the disruption is significant enough to interfere with the services or programs being offered at that facility at that time. If the improper behavior happens repeatedly, the Partner/Handler may be required to take significant steps to mitigate the animal's disruptive behavior before bringing the Service Animal into any Hiram College building. Mitigation may include obtaining refresher training for both the Service

Animal and the Partner or Handler or other appropriate measures that are not inconsistent with the ADA or Ohio law or other applicable law.

- **Conflicting/Competing Disability Accommodations**

Persons with medical condition(s) affected by Service Animals on Hiram College property should contact Hiram College's Disability Services office if they have a health or safety related concern about exposure to a Service Animal. The person registering the concern will be asked to provide medical documentation that identifies the condition(s) allowing a determination to be made by Hiram College Disability Services as to whether the condition is disabling and whether there is a need for an accommodation.

- **Campus Access for Service Animals**

- A Service Animal is permitted to accompany the Partner/Handler anywhere the Partner/Handler goes on Hiram College's property with the following exceptions, which describe areas that generally are off-limits to Service Animals:
  - *Food preparation areas.* Applicable laws restrict animals from food preparation areas.
  - *Laboratories.* Chemicals found in many labs can be harmful to Service Animals. Organisms naturally found on Service Animals could negatively impact the outcome of research.
  - *Mechanical Rooms/Custodial Closets.* Such locations can have chemicals or machinery that could potentially harm a Service Animal, and Service Animals may cause disruption to services provided in the location.
  - *Certain Sections of the Health Center.* Certain sections of the health center may be off-limits to Service or Support Animals to ensure that sterile environments are maintained and to minimize the risk of compromising patient safety and treatment
  - *Other Potentially Dangerous Areas.* Any rooms or classrooms with sharp metal cuttings or glass shards on the floor; hot materials; excessive dust; or moving machinery may pose a danger to Service Animals. When Partners/Handlers with Service Animals must be in one of these restricted areas for a course requirement, alternative arrangements will be considered to provide access. When it is determined unsafe for the Team to be in one of these areas, reasonable accommodations will be provided to assure the Team equal access to the academic program or activity.

- **Using a Service Animal in Hiram College Housing**

Service Animals must be accompanied by the Partner or Handler, and remain in close proximity to the Partner or Handler and be under the control of the Partner or Handler (as described above in **Basic Requirements of Service Animals**) in the common areas of Hiram College residential housing.

It is the responsibility of the Partner to arrange any residential housing cleaning necessary due to the presence of the Service Animal or Support Animal. Feces and vomit of the Service Animal or Support Animal in such residential housing buildings must be cleaned immediately and disposed of properly.

- **Removal of Service Animal from Hiram College**

If a Service Animal or a Support Animal becomes aggressive and poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others, the Partner/Handler will be required immediately to remove the Service Animal or a Support Animal from Hiram College property. The Partner of a Service Animal or a Support Animal is then expected to report such incidents to Hiram College Disability Services within 24 hours of the occurrence.

A Service Animal or a Support Animal that makes excessive noise in a Hiram College residence building can be very disruptive to other residents. A disruptive animal in a classroom can also hinder the learning of other students. If the Service Animal exhibits this behavior, the Partner will be required to remove the Service Animal or Support Animal from Hiram College's campus until the inappropriate behavior of the Service Animal or Support Animal can be brought under control by the Partner/Handler.

- **Damage**

The Partner is solely responsible for any damage or injury to Hiram College property or persons caused by the Partner's Service Animal.

- **Loss, Injury or Death of Service Animal or Support Animal**

Hiram College is not responsible for the loss, injury to, or death of any Service Animal or Support Animal. The risk of loss, injury to, or death of a Service Animal or Support Animal shall be borne solely by the Partner and/or Handler.

