Policy on Service Animals

The definition of service animal in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is "any animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals who are hearing impaired to intruders or pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items." If an animal meets this definition, it is considered a service animal regardless of whether or not it has been certified by a training program. Service animals must be permitted to accompany a person with a disability everywhere on campus or off campus as the activity (i.e. internship, field work, etc) pertains to the curriculum. If there is any questions whether an animal is a service animal, a decision will be made in consultation with AEC.

A therapy animal is one that has reliable, predictable behavior, and is selected to visit with people with disabilities or people who are experiencing the frailties of aging as a therapy tool. A therapy animal may be an integral part of therapy treatment. The therapy animal does not accompany a person with a disability all the time. Thus, laws protecting service animals do not cover therapy animals.

Requirements of service animals and their Handlers:

* Dogs must be licensed in accordance with county regulations and wear a vaccination tag.
* Other types of animals must have vaccinations appropriate for that type of animal.
* Animals must be in good health. Animals to be housed in university housing must have an annual clean bill of health from a licensed veterinarian.
* Animals must be on a leash at all times.
* The Handler/Partner must be in full control of the animal at all times.

Disruptive and aggressive animals may be asked to leave university facilities. If the improper behavior happens repeatedly, the handler may be told not to bring the animal into any facility until the handler takes significant steps to mitigate the behavior. This mitigation may include muzzling a barking dog, or refresher training for animal and handler.