



# THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

**POLICY TITLE:** Service Animals on Campus Policy

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** November 29, 2016

**APPROVAL BODY:** University Administration

## **POLICY PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Policy is to permit service animals to be on the University of Winnipeg property owned or leased ("University property") and provide conditions that govern their presence.

## **LEGAL AUTHORITY**

*The Accessibility for Manitobans Act ("the AMA")*

## **APPLICABILITY**

This Policy applies to staff and students on University property and is intended to outline the rights and responsibilities of students and staff with disabilities who utilize Service Animals.

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

The Vice-President Human Resources, Audit and Sustainability, on behalf of the University Administration of the University, is responsible for the development, administration and review of this Policy.

## **KEY DEFINITIONS**

The following definitions apply to terms as they are used in this Policy:

- "Service Animal" means an animal that has that has been trained to provide assistance to a person with a disability that relates to that person's disability (ss. 9(2)(l) Manitoba Human Rights Code). " The disability can be visible (example: visual impairment) or invisible (example: epilepsy). Under section 2 of *The Service Animals Protection Act*, a service animal is defined as being one that is:
  - a) trained to be used by a person with a disability for reasons relating to his or her disability;
  - b) trained to be used by a peace officer in the execution of his or her duties; or
  - c) trained to be used by a person who is authorized by a peace officer to assist peace officers in their duties.
- "Barrier" means anything (for a person who has a physical, mental, intellectual or sensory disability) that interacts with that disability in a way that may hinder the person's full and effective participation in society on an equal basis. (ss. 3(1) of the AMA). An organization such as the University of Winnipeg must establish and implement measures, policies and



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practices respecting barrier-free access to the good or services that it provides (ss. 4(1) of Customer Service Standard Regulation 171/2015 of the AMA). Also, the University's polices must recognize that a person who is disabled by a barrier may be accompanied by a service animal when he or she seeks to obtain, use or benefit from its goods or services. (ss. 8 of Customer Service Standard Regulation 171/2015 of the AMA).

- "Custodian" means an individual who, as a result of a disability, requires the assistance of a service animal.

## **POLICY ELEMENTS**

In order to provide an accessible learning and working environment, the University is committed to the development and implementation of policies and procedures which will enable the University community to understand and support situations and circumstances in which Service Animals will be on our campus. It is also important that both the Custodian and staff understand their rights and their responsibilities in this regard.

### **Distinction between Service Animals and Pets**

Service Animals are working animals and not pets. Pets and non-research animals are restricted from University property. Service Animals are animals that are specifically trained to perform tasks for persons with disabilities such as, but not limited to:

- guiding people who are blind or visually impaired;
- alerting people who are deaf or hearing impaired;
- pulling wheelchairs for those with limited mobility;
- alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure;
- performing other specialized tasks; and
- reminding a person to take their medication.

### **Areas on Campus in which Service Animals are Permitted**

Service animals, accompanied by their Custodian, are permitted to access areas of the University generally assessable to the public as provided for my the Manitoba Human Rights Code, except in exceptional circumstances. This would include, for example, sidewalks, grounds hallways, classrooms, cafeteria and campus grounds but would not include locked equipment and storage areas that are closed off for construction or public safety reasons.

### **Types of Service Animals**

There are many different types of Service Animals and most are usually Service Dogs, which are assigned to persons with certain disabilities. A Service Dog is specifically trained to assist Custodians who have mobility or health impairments. However, in rarer instances, Service Animals may include other animals. Service dogs may perform a wide variety of functions which include but are not limited to: carrying, retrieving, opening doors, ringing doorbells, activating elevator buttons, steadying a Custodian while walking or helping a Custodian up after they have fallen.



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Service Dogs are also referred to as Assistance Dogs. The following is a listing of the various types of Service Dogs:

- **Guide Dog** - generally refer to dogs that are trained specifically to lead blind and visually impaired Custodians around obstacles.
- **Hearing Dog** - is a dog trained to alert a Custodian who is deaf or has impaired hearing to sounds (e.g., someone knocking at a door).
- **Seizure Response Dog** – is a dog trained to assist a Custodian with a seizure disorder. How the dog may serve the Custodian depends on his/her needs. The dog may stand guard over the Custodian during a seizure, or the dog may go for help. Some dogs have learned to predict seizures and warn the Custodian in advance.
- **PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) Dog** - is a dog that is generally utilized to assist Custodians who have experienced a traumatic event in their lives (i.e. war veteran, severe accident, depression etc.). These Dogs are used to provide comfort and reduce stress in certain situations where the Custodian may feel threatened or uncomfortable for any number of reasons.
- **Severe Allergy Alert Dog** – is a dog that alerts their Custodian to life-threatening allergens that may be in the area, especially, tree nuts, shellfish or gluten.
- **Autism Assistance Dog** - is a dog that assists in calming and grounding a Custodian on the autism spectrum via tactile or deep pressure stimulation. Autism Assistance Dogs may also assist in teaching life skills and maintaining boundaries.
- **Diabetic Alert Dogs** – is a dog used to alert their Custodian to dangerous or potentially deadly blood sugar highs and lows. Many dogs are trained to call 911 on a special K-9 Alert Phone if their Custodian cannot be roused.
- **Medical Alert Dogs** – is a dog used to alert their Custodian to dangerous physiological changes such as blood pressure, hormone levels or another verifiable, measurable bodily symptom.

## ASSOCIATED PROCEDURES

- Service Animals on Campus Procedures

## RELATED POLICIES

- Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy

## RELEVANT DATES

**Effective:** November 29, 2016

**Scheduled Review:** November 29, 2022