

Collin College is committed to providing a healthy and safe environment for students, faculty, staff and visitors by managing the presence of animals on property and in its facilities, while providing individuals with disabilities who use service or other animals the opportunity to receive the benefit of the tasks these animals perform in accordance with the requirements of applicable law.

The College District will allow animals to accompany an employee, student, or visitor on campus as provided in this policy. This policy does not apply to animals used by law enforcement officers in the carrying out of their duties. Animals not specifically allowed under this policy will not be permitted on any College District campus or in any College District facility.

### **Service Animals**

The College District allows the use of service animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, or state law. Currently, a service animal means a dog (such as a signal or guide dog), or in rare situations, another animal designated by federal law regulations, that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other disability. The work or task that the service animal performs must be directly related to the individual's disability. Service animals are working animals, not pets. Animals that meet this definition are considered service animals regardless of whether they have been licensed or certified by a state or local government.

The College District allows service animals on campus, in its facilities, or at activities and events when accompanied by a person with a disability and the service animal is trained to provide, and does provide, a specific service to that person that is directly related to the person's disability.

Service animals, however, may not be permitted if the animal poses a substantial and direct threat to health or safety or when the animal constitutes a fundamental alteration to the nature of a college program or service.

A service animal must be under the control of its handler. A service animal must have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means). The care and supervision of the animal is the sole responsibility of the owner or handler.

Students with allergies to a service animal may request reasonable accommodations under the ADA through the ACCESS office.

The accompaniment of a person with a disability by a service animal in a location with health and safety restrictions are reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the appropriate department representative(s) in collaboration with the Human Resources Department or the ACCESS Office.

A person with a disability will be limited to one service animal unless an additional animal is necessary to provide a reasonable accommodation.

Service animals in training that are accompanied by an approved trainer are allowed the same access to campus as fully trained service dogs, except, animals in training are not permitted to reside in Student Housing. A student with a service animal who intends to reside on campus with the animal must notify the Student Housing Director of the need for a service animal's presence in advance of beginning residency following procedures outlined by Student Housing Department employees. Such prior notification allows the college to make appropriate arrangements and offer assistance prior to the student's arrival on campus.

*Responsibilities  
of Service Animal  
Owner or Handler*

Service animal owners are financially responsible for damage or injury to others caused by their animal, including clean-up and disposal of animal waste and replacement or repair of property, and must take appropriate precautions to prevent property damage and/or injury to others while on college property.

If a service animal is disruptive in the classroom, an employee may ask the owner and their animal to leave the premises immediately.

Service animals must be under the control of the owner at all times and under the following circumstances:

1. A service animal should be on a leash when not providing needed service.
2. To the extent possible the service animal should be unobtrusive to other individuals and the learning, living, working environment.
3. A service animal may not be left tied or tethered out of the presence of its owner.
4. Service animals are not permitted to block aisles, passageways, or fire egress.

5. To the extent possible, the owner should ensure that the animal does not sniff or lick people, dining tables or the personal belongings of others.

The cost of care, arrangements, and well-being of a service animal are the sole responsibility of the owner, including keeping the animal free from fleas and ticks or other pests that may cause infestation.

Cleaning up after a service animal is the sole responsibility of the owner. In the event that the owner is not physically able to clean up after a service animal, the owner must delegate this responsibility to another individual who is capable of meeting this requirement at the owner's expense.

The service animal owner is responsible for complying with any relevant city, county, and/or state license and leash laws while the service animal is on college premises.

Any service animal found unattended on college property may be seized by authorized persons or animal control officers. Owners are responsible for any impound and/or license fees required to secure the release of their animals.

*Inquiries  
Regarding  
Service Animals*

Individuals who are accompanied by a service animal must not be asked to identify the nature or extent of their disability. In regard to a service animal:

1. Employees will not inquire about the qualifications of a service animal when it is readily apparent that an animal is trained to do work or to perform a task for a person with a disability (e.g., the dog is observed guiding an individual who is blind or has low vision, pulling a person's wheelchair, or providing assistance with stability or balance to a person with an observable mobility disability).
2. If it is not readily apparent that an animal is performing work or a task on behalf of an individual with a disability, employees may only inquire:
  - a. Whether the animal is required because of a disability; and,
  - b. What work or task the animal has been trained to perform.
3. Individuals are not required to have an accommodation letter from the ACCESS Office to use a service animal on campus.

4. Employees will not require documentation of a service animal's certification, training, registration, or license as a service animal.

**Animals in Student Housing**

Pets are not allowed in on-campus Student Housing. Service animals and Emotional Support Animals (ESA), as defined below, are permitted in on-campus Student Housing. ESAs are permitted in on-campus Student Housing when the ESA is approved by the ACCESS Office and is necessary for the resident with a documented disability to have equal access to housing.

An ESA or comfort animal means an animal that provides emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship and that a health care provider has recommended as an accommodation for a student with a disability. The comfort provided by these animals does not constitute work or tasks and ESAs are not service animals for purposes of this policy.

*Access*

1. ESAs are not permitted in Collin College Student Housing until approved by the ACCESS Office through the appropriate process.
2. Approved ESAs must be contained within the Collin College Student Housing unit of the owner/handler, except when transported outside the residential area in an animal carrier or controlled leash/harness.
3. ESAs are not permitted on any Collin College campus or in any Collin College facility other than Collin College Student Housing.
4. An ESA is considered an unreasonable accommodation if the ESA presents an undue financial or administrative burden on Collin College, poses a substantial and/or direct threat to personal or public safety, or constitutes a fundamental alteration of the nature of Collin College's educational programs or activities.

*Requests for ESAs*

Requests for an accommodation to have an ESA must be submitted with the ACCESS Office. ESAs will not be permitted in Student Housing without the written prior approval from the ACCESS Office. Collin College Student Housing will provide students with procedures for students to follow for ESAs in Student Housing.

*Required Documentation for Approval*

The approval process for ESAs will require, in addition to other information, submission of the following to the ACCESS Office:

1. Current and appropriate documentation from a physician or licensed mental health professional that verifies the student is a person with a disability; describes how the animal assists

the individual; and shows the relationship between the individual's disability and the need for the assistance provided by the ESA.

2. Veterinary records or other evidence acceptable to the ACCESS Office verifying that the animal is in good health and is current with respect to all vaccinations, medications, or other items required or recommended by veterinarians regarding the breed or type of animal in question.
3. ESA owners of dogs or cats must provide proof of current rabies vaccinations and wear rabies vaccination tags.

Completion and submission of forms with accompanying records to verify current subscription for ESA and vaccination and good health of the ESA must be provided to the ACCESS Office each time a lease is renewed. No ESA will be permitted in Student Housing without annual submission of the above-described information.

Collin College reserves the right to require updated veterinary records or other evidence of the health of the animal at any time.

#### *Procedures*

Student Housing procedures, as outlined in the Collin College Resident Handbook, will provide all requirements and expectations, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Students living in Student Housing are permitted only one ESA at a time.
2. The approved ESA is allowed in Student Housing only as long as it is necessary for the resident's disability.
3. ESA approval is for a specific animal; therefore, a student must request approval for a replacement animal if necessary.
4. ESAs must be at least six months of age.
5. Generally, dogs and cats are commonly requested as ESAs although other animals (such as fish, turtles, or small birds) may serve in this capacity. For the health and safety of residents, the college is not required to grant non-domesticated, wild, or unique animals (such as snakes, reptiles, barnyard animals, monkeys, spiders, insects, or other animals) as reasonable accommodations.
6. If an animal begins residence in Student Housing prior to approval of the ACCESS Office and Student Housing, the college may request the owner remove the animal from Student Housing within 48 hours of notification. If the animal is not removed as requested, college officials may consider the animal a trespasser and contact the appropriate City of Plano

authorities to remove the animal from Student Housing. Any costs associated with removal of the animal from college property is the responsibility of the animal's owner.

7. The owner of the approved ESA is responsible for ensuring all Collin College and Collin College Student Housing procedures and requirements for ESAs are followed.

**Conflicting  
Disabilities**

In circumstances where the presence of a service animal or ESA in Student Housing may substantially impair another individual's physical or mental wellbeing, such as but not limited to allergies or phobias, the College District will consider the needs of both persons in meeting its obligations to reasonably accommodate all disabilities and to resolve the problem as efficiently and expeditiously as possible. Conflicting disabilities involving students should be referred to the ACCESS Office. Conflicts involving employees should be referred to Human Resources.

**Animals for  
Instructional  
Purposes**

The College District allows the use of instructional animals required for use in teaching or research. Prior to bringing an animal on campus for instructional purposes, written permission must be obtained from the appropriate academic dean and/or Campus Provost. The permission statement must clearly designate the date, location, and purpose for the animal's presence on campus. Each animal must be on a leash or equivalent and fully under the control of the handler. The handler will have documentation of current vaccinations for the animal. The care and supervision of the animal is the sole responsibility of the handler.

**Removal of Animals  
from Campus**

The College District may request an owner or handler remove service animals or other animals from campus for reasons that include but are not limited to the following:

1. Failure to properly control the animal: The owner does not or cannot take effective action to control the animal. Improper animal behaviors that should be controlled include but are not limited to barking, growling, nipping, snapping, biting, lunging, or jumping at people or other animals. The owner of an animal deemed to be out of control may be prohibited from bringing the service animal onto college property. ESA animals meeting these criteria may be excluded from Student Housing until the owner can demonstrate that they have taken significant steps to mitigate the behavior.
2. Non-Housebroken Animal: The animal is not housebroken (i.e., trained so that it controls its waste elimination) as determined by Student Housing employees.

3. **Animal Care:** It is determined by designated college officials that the animal's owner has failed to properly care for the animal. An owner must ensure that the animal, and its environment, are maintained in a healthy, clean manner. Instances of suspected abuse of an animal are referred to the Dean of Students, the Human Resources Department, or other appropriate authority.
4. **Direct Threat:** The animal is determined to be a substantial and direct threat to the health and safety of individuals. A direct threat may be based upon the poor health or hygiene of the animal, the behavior of the animal, or the presence of an animal in a sensitive area such as certain laboratories or mechanical or industrial areas.
5. **Fundamental Alteration:** The presence of an animal fundamentally alters a college program by requiring a significant alteration to the essential nature of the services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations offered.
6. **Damage or Harm:** The animal causes damage or harm to persons or property.
7. **Responsibilities:** The owner violates any of the responsibilities outlined in this policy or applicable procedures.

**Appeals and  
Grievances**

Any individual who wishes to file a complaint for violation of this policy may file a complaint with the College District. See DGBA (for employee), FLD (for students), and GB (for community members).