

PSU Guidance for Working with Service Animals and Their Handlers in Labs/Shops

What is a Service Animal?.....	1
Can I refuse a Service Animal Entry into the classroom or lab?	1
What if I have concerns about a Service Animal's Safety in the Lab?	2
How should a Service Animal Behave?.....	2
What are my responsibilities when a student brings a service animal to the lab?	3
Recommended Language for Syllabi for Courses Incorporating Laboratory or Workshop	
ActivitiesWork for All Lab/Shop Faculty to Add to Syllabi:.....	3
Relevant Policies	4

What is a Service Animal?

A service animal is a **dog** that has been *specifically trained to perform a service for a person with a disability*.

Can I refuse a Service Animal entry into the classroom or lab?

In short, no; that's because the right to be accompanied by a service animal is protected by the ADA. However, you can ask the questions below to determine whether an animal is a service animal. You can also refer a student to the **Disability Resource Center (DRC)** so that they can obtain protective equipment for their animal including goggles, doggie lab coats, disposable booties, disposable protective floor pads, and possibly a portable kennel.

The ADA and the PSU policy explain there are only two questions that can be asked of a service animal handler when it is not already readily apparent that the dog is trained to do work or perform tasks for its owner/handler:

- **Is the dog required because of a disability?**
- **What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?**

Staff, faculty, and students may not interfere with the individual's right to have a service animal present with the individual. If the University employee or student has doubts, they may not follow up with a request for documentation of the disability or the dog's training. Instead, faculty and staff should reach out to the DRC to talk through questions or concerns.

In rare circumstances, the presence of a service dog could impact animal research or sterility in the laboratory environment. If a faculty or staff member is concerned that this could be the case in their lab, please contact the DRC and Environment Health and Safety for further consultation.

What if I have concerns about a Service Animal's safety in the Lab?

Students who use service animals **do not have to register with the (DRC)**, nor do they need to provide any documentation or certification in order to “be accompanied by service animals in areas of PSU facilities where students, faculty, staff, members of the public, and other participants in service, programs, or activities are allowed to go.”

However, the Policy also states that “If a student accesses laboratories on campus and desires to bring a service dog into a laboratory, they *should* **contact the DRC to assure appropriate protocol is arranged for the health and safety of the service animal and lab attendees.**”

Students may work with DRC to ensure that, like the people working in the lab, the Service Animals are as safe as possible. In collaboration with the student and lab faculty, DRC may provide protective disposable booties, disposable floor pads, lab coats, lab goggles, and portable kennels to ensure Service Animal safety.

How should a Service Animal Behave?

- According to PSU policy, “a service dog must be **housebroken** (i.e., *trained so that it controls its waste elimination, absent illness or accident*);
- A service animal must be **controlled by a harness, leash, or other tether, unless the person is unable to hold those, or such use would interfere with the service animal's performance of work or other tasks**. In such instances, the service animal must be kept under control by voice, signals, or other effective means.
- If faculty or staff observe behavior related to the service animal that appears to impact the safety of lab participants, they should intervene as they would with any student, and can ask the student to leave if the safety concern persists. If this occurs, DRC must be engaged for follow-up discussion and long-term decision making.
- If the student does not ensure the service animal is well-behaved and under control at all times, PSU may impose some restrictions on, and may even exclude, a service animal in certain instances. **If you believe the service animal should be restricted or excluded from a particular place or from the campus as a whole, reach out to the DRC at 503-725-4150 or drc@pdx.edu.** In case of an emergency involving a service animal, please dial 9-1-1.

What are my responsibilities when a student brings a service animal to the lab?

Lab faculty and staff are responsible to inform?? for service animal handlers of the following:

- Lab safety forms notifying students of potential hazards in a specific lab.
- The form should include information about recommended Protective Personal Equipment (PPE) for service animals. PPE for animals could include doggles, disposable floor mats, and paw coverings, among other items.

Recommended Language for Syllabi for Courses Incorporating Laboratory or Workshop Activities Work for All Lab/Shop Faculty to Add to Syllabi:

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides reasonable accommodations for students who encounter barriers in the learning environment due to disability. The DRC works with students who have physical, learning, cognitive, mental health, sensory, chronic illness, and other disabilities.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability that may affect your work in this class and feel you need accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center to schedule an appointment and initiate a conversation about reasonable accommodations. The DRC is located in Smith Memorial Student Union, Suite 116. You can also contact the DRC at 503-725-4150, drc@pdx.edu, or [visit the DRC website](#).

If you have a service animal, you are not required to register your service animal with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). **However, handlers who plan to bring their service animals into lab spaces must work with DRC to ensure that their animal has appropriate Protective Personal Equipment (PPE).** That's because of possible dangers to your animal in some lab spaces. The DRC can help you learn more about what to consider when deciding whether to bring your service animal to a workshop or laboratory space.

There can be dangers to your animal in laboratory and workshop spaces. Consult with DRC to learn more about best practices for protecting your safety and that of your service animal. The DRC can also provide you with information about protective equipment for your service animal in academic labs.

If you have already been approved for accommodations through the DRC, please contact me by email to make sure that I have received your DRC Faculty Notification Email from the DRC. This is also a good time we can discuss how we will together assure your access to your accommodations.

The DRC is located in Smith Memorial Student Union, Suite 116. You can also contact the DRC at 503-725-4150, drc@pdx.edu, or [visit the DRC website](https://www.pdx.edu/disability-resource-center) (<https://www.pdx.edu/disability-resource-center>).

Relevant Policies

- [Assistance Animal Policy](#)

Science Support Staff Contact Information

Science support staff are available and happy to assist with initial hazard assessment(s) to determine what type(s) of PPE or other accommodations may be needed for the service animal. These types of assessments are necessary and are unique to each lab space/type of lab that the service animal will enter. Not all PPE will be needed in every situation.

EHS Research Safety

- Lindsay Henderson: lindsah@pdx.edu

Chemistry Stockroom

- General contact: chemstrm@pdx.edu
- RLSB Chemistry Stockroom: Kirk Fisher, kfisher@pdx.edu
- SRTC Chemistry Stockroom: Nic Meier, nicolasm@pdx.edu

Biology Support

- RLSB Biology Preproom: Michael Wendel, mww3@pdx.edu
- SRTC Biology Preproom: Kat Wonder, wonder@pdx.edu

ESM Support:

- General contact: esmlabs@pdx.edu