Service Animals at San Juan

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SERVICE ANIMALS AT SAN JUAN COLLEGE

Definition of Service Animal

Under federal law, Service Animal means “any dog that is 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 mental disability. Other species of
animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the
purpose of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a Service Alow vision
with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the
presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a
wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence
of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical
support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities,
and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or
interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors.

The provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not
constitute work and do not qualify a dog as a Service Animal.

Under New Mexico state law, a qualified Service Dog or qualified Service Miniature
Horse means “a dog or miniature horse that has been trained or is being trained to
provide assistance or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability who
has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life
activities. Service Animals do not include emotional support animals, comfort animals or
therapy animals.”
See § 28-11-2(b) and (c) NMSA (1978).

San Juan College Protocol

San Juan College is to meet the requirements of state and federal law regarding
accommodations for Service Animals and it supports the use of Service Animals on
campus. Service Dogs will not be excluded from San Juan College or San Juan College
activities. San Juan College shall make all reasonable accommodations to individuals
with disabilities unless such accommodation would fundamentally alter the nature of the
services provided by the College. College protocol allows Service Animals everywhere
on campus.

Obligations of Service Dog Owners

1. Under federal law, San Juan College will request a Service Dog owner to remove
their dog:

a. If the Service Animal is out of control and the animal’s handler does
not take effective action to control it; or

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b. The animal is not housebroken (see 38 C.F.R. § 35.136(c)(2) and 38
C.F.R.
§ 36.03(c)(2)).

2. An animal under the handler's control must have a harness, leash, or other tether
unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash or
tether; or the use of a harness, leash or other tether would interfere with the Service
Animal's safe and effective performance of work or tasks, in which case, the Service
Animal must be othe1wise under the handler's control (e.g. voice control, signals,
or other effective means). See 38 C.F.R.
§ 35.136(c)(4) and 38 C.F.R. § 36.302(c)(4).

3. State law and Fa1mington municipal ordinance may put other obligations on
Service Dog owners. San Juan College does not enforce these requirements.

4. Presenting a dog as a qualified Service Animal when they, in fact, are not
qualified is illegal. See§ 28-11-16(A) NMSA (1978).

Obligations of San Juan College

1. San Juan College is not responsible for the care or supervision of a Service
Animal.

2. San Juan College is not responsible for cleaning up after the Service Dog.

3. San Juan College is not required to accommodate a Service Animal if that
accommodation poses a direct threat to health or safety of others. The determination of a
direct threat will be made on an individual assessment and reasonable judgment. See
38 C.F.R. § 36.201(a) and (b).

4. If it is not obvious what service the animal provides, San Juan College will ask:

a. Is the dog a Service Animal required because of a disability; and

b. What work or task has the dog been trained to perform.

What San Juan College Will Not Do

1. Ask you for proof or ce1tification of a Service Dog training;

2. Ask you for proof of licensure or vaccination for your Service Dog (although state
law and municipal ordinance require this);

3. Ask you to prove or demonstrate your Service Dog's abilities or controllability;

4. Ask you to remove a qualified Se1vice Dog unless it is out of control and you do
not take action to control it or it is not housebroken (defecates or urinates inside College
buildings).

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How You Can Help San Juan College Help You and Your Service
Animal
(Not Requirements, But Common Sense Requests)

1. Contact the San Juan College Disability Service Office and let them know that
you are bringing your Service Animal on campus. This lets the College advise your
professors so we can properly accommodate you and your dog and other students as
you participate in classes and College activities.
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2. Let us know of requests or instructions you have relating to your Serviceriv uc0.2 rg
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