

SERVICE AND ASSISTANCE ANIMALS AT COLORADO NORTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CNCC recognizes the importance of “Service Animals” as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) and the broader category of “Assistance Animals” under the Fair Housing Act (FHA) that provide physical and/or emotional support to individuals with disabilities. Below is an overview of what animals qualify.

SERVICE ANIMALS

Service animals are defined under the ADAAA as:

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.

The work or task that the dog performs must be directly related to the individual’s disability, such as, but not limited to:

- assisting those with low vision
- alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing
- pulling a wheelchair or stabilizing a person's gait
- retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone
- recognizing and assisting during seizures
- alerting individuals who may be experiencing flashbacks of emotional trauma

A service animal may only be a dog or a miniature horse. Emotional, support or companionship animals do not qualify as service animals. Subject to some limitations, service dogs may generally accompany students throughout campus, such as classrooms, recreational facilities and campus residences.

When a service animal is on campus with their handler but it is not evident what service the animal provides, only two questions may be asked of the handler:

- Is this animal required because of a disability?
- What work or tasks is the animal trained to perform?

If the answer to either question is not clear, contact the ADA Coordinator. Questions about the person’s disability, requiring medical documentation, requiring a special identification card or training documentation for the animal, or asking that the animal demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task are not permitted.

The animal’s handler must be in control of the animal at all times. A leash is recommended, but not necessary to be in control. Community college employees may request that a service animal be removed if it is determined that the animal is not controlled properly or is disruptive in the classroom or to the college learning environment.



ASSISTANCE ANIMALS

In some instances, disabled students may be allowed to have an assistance animal within campus housing facilities. Assistance animals may alleviate one or more identified symptoms or effects of a disability and are often referred to as “emotional support” or “therapy” animals. All requests for assistance animals as an accommodation in campus housing facilities must be approved by the ADA Coordinator.

A student may be able to have an assistance animal in a campus housing unit as a reasonable accommodation if:

- the student has a documented disability; and
- the animal is necessary to afford the student with a disability an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling; and
- there is an identifiable relationship or nexus between the disability and the assistance the animal provides.

If a student is allowed to have an assistance animal, it may be restricted to only housing areas. It may not be allowed to enter classrooms, recreational facilities or other campus buildings.

CNCC PROCEDURE FOR ASSISTANCE ANIMALS

- Animals may not be allowed if they pose an undue financial or administrative burden to the college, may cause substantial physical damage or if they may fundamentally alter CNCC’s operations (including housing).
- Animals cannot be a threat to the health or safety of others. Student owner is responsible for any bodily injury associated with the animal.
- Juvenile animals may only be granted probationary status or not allowed at the discretion of CNCC.
- Dogs must be house trained.
- Animals need to be well cared for. If the animal is left unattended over the weekend it may be considered animal abuse and you may be asked to remove the animal from campus or animal control may be called.
- Animals must be in good health with regular checkups and must comply with all state and local licensure and vaccination requirements. Documentation of vaccinations and licensure are required if the student and animal reside in campus housing facilities.
- The student owner is responsible for all clean up and/or damages associated with the animal, which includes picking up your animal’s feces from CNCC grounds.
- The animal’s handler must be under the control of the animal at all times. The animal must be accompanied by its handler any time it is outside the student’s room. Community college employees may request that a service animal be removed if it is determined that the animal is not controlled properly or is disruptive to the college learning environment.
- The student owner is responsible for educating others in the campus community on how to appropriately interact with the animal. It is further understood that the animal is considered an assistance animal and is working when out in public. The animal does not need to interact with other students, faculty, or staff unless required due to the nature of the disability.
- In order for a student who is residing on campus to have an assistance animal, all paperwork must be submitted and approved before the animal is allowed in the residence halls.

For additional information on disability documentation guidelines and/or the accommodation process, please visit the Accommodations and Disabilities page on the CNCC website at www.cncc.edu/disabilityservices or call (970) 675-3205.

