



Service Dogs in Teaching and Research Laboratories Guidance for Faculty, Staff, and Students

1. INTRODUCTION

- **Purpose**

Chemistry and Chemical Biology (CCB) has developed this guidance to ensure the safety of faculty, staff, students, and services dogs in teaching and research laboratories.

- **Scope:**

This guidance applies to University staff or students with conditions or disabilities (permanent or temporary) that need a service dog.

This guidance is to be used in conjunction with University of New Mexico (UNM) policy 2295 for [Service and Assistance Animals](#) and with guidance provided by the [UNM Accessibility Resource Center](#) program.

2. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

- [UNM Accessibility Resource Center](#) (ARC) at UNM shall be responsible for:
 - 2..1. Assisting students requesting the need of a service dog in a laboratory; and
 - 2..2. Facilitating student contact with CCB instructor and Chemical Safety Coordinator.
- **Department/Faculty/Supervisor/Instructors** shall be responsible for:
 - 2..1. Ensuring the dog handler is following the requirements of the agreed upon accommodation recommendations;
 - 2..2. Discussing accommodations with the student and ARC prior to the first day of class to prepare necessary procedures and preparations.
 - 2..3. Monitoring the environment and responding to any disruptions by discussing the situation with the handler; and
 - 2..4. Contacting the ARC to report animalbehavior problems or safety concerns for further discussion
- **Service Dog Owner** shall be responsible for:
 - 2..1. Registering for services through the ARC if they chose to do so;
 - 2..2. Meeting with the department or instructors, Chemical Safety Coordinator prior to the beginning of the semesterto discuss accommodations;
 - 2..3. Ensuring that the dog has received the proper training;
 - 2..4. Following the guidelines and requirements provided in the agreed accommodations;

- 2..5. Licensing in accordance with applicable state, county, or local laws or ordinances pertaining to the type of Service Animal;
- 2..6. Ensuring the animal is in good health and well groomed;
- 2..7. Harnessing, leashed, or otherwise under the control of the individual with a disability (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means) such that the Service Animal does not disrupt or interfere with the ability of other users of the space or activity.
- 2..8. Ensuring the animal is housebroken (the individual with the disability is responsible for the proper disposition of any Service Animal accidental waste);
- 2..9. Maintaining proper infection control measures;
- 2..10. Providing emergency contact numbers for themselves and the animals as well as necessary information needed for preparation of potential incidents.
- 2..11. Providing any necessary personal protective equipment for the dog; and
- 2..12. Ensuring the dog is well-behaved and does not cause a disruption, distraction, or injury to others in the area.
- 2..13. Any damages to a facility caused by their Service Animals, including if the individuals are UNM students whose Service Animals have caused damage in classroom or laboratory;

3. PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- **Expectations**

- 3..1. Service Dog is defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability and includes dogs trained to take a specific action, such as dogs trained to alert for low blood sugar in diabetics, those that detect the onset of seizures, and even those that alert the time for medication in depressed individuals.
- 3..2. Dogs used for emotional support, therapy, comfort, companions, and dogs-in-training are not considered qualified service dogs.
- 3..3. Service dogs do not have to be professionally trained and can be trained by the user.
- 3..4. Service dogs do not have to wear a vest or patch or special harness identifying them as service dogs.

- **Procedures for Departments, Faculty, Supervisors, and Instructors**

- 3..1. General Information

- 3..1.1. This program applies only to service dogs. Miniature horses or other types of service animals are not allowed in university laboratories.
- 3..1.2. Service dogs will not be allowed into the laboratory without the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and emergency plans.
- 3..1.3. Service dogs can only be excluded from the laboratory if:
 - 3..1.3.1. If the dog is out of control and the handler doesn't take

effective action to control it; or

3..1.3.2. If the dog is not housebroken.

3..1.4. Faculty and Staff are not allowed to request any medical documentation for the dog, require that the dog demonstrate its task, or inquire about the nature of the person's disability.

3..1.5. Owners are responsible for cleanup and disposal of urine and feces.

3..1.6. Please refer to UNM University of New Mexico (UNM) policy 2295 for [Service and Assistance Animals](#).

- **Laboratories Utilizing Biological Materials**

3..1. A needs assessment must be completed for the assessment of service dogs in laboratories utilizing risk group 1 biological materials.

3..2. Service dogs are generally not permitted in laboratories utilizing risk group 2 or higher biological materials. Personnel may request a risk assessment to accompany their Needs Assessment for a possible exception.

- **Laboratories Utilizing Radioactive Materials**

3..1. Service dogs are not permitted in laboratories in which radioactive materials are used.

- **Administrative Hazard Controls**

Alternatives to positioning the service dog in the lab next to the individual must be discussed with the handler first. This would include:

3..1. Placing the dog behind a removable gate or in a pen in an adjacent room or area away from hazards or under a tent.

3..1.1. In the event of a spill on a tent the animal and the tent shall be washed

3..1.2. The handler must guide the washing

3..1.3. If CCB participate in washing an animal they shall wear leather gloves and obey the guidance of the handler. CCB personnel may suggest measures, but not dictate as it is the handlers decision.

3..1.4. The handler shall provide emergency contacts for themselves and the animal in case of incident.

3..2. If a location next to the person is required, consider a location at the end of the bench or in a corner away from other students, personnel, and activities.

4. PROCEDURES FOR SERVICE DOG OWNERS

- **General**

Students, faculty or staff that require the use of a service dog in a laboratory are encouraged to contact the ARC <https://arc.unm.edu/> to document the need and recommendations.

- 4..1. Procedural Steps for Dog Owners
 - 4..1.1. Contact the ARC for using the following link <https://arc.unm.edu/>;
 - 4..1.2. The respective ARC will conduct a needs assessment.
 - 4..1.3. ARC will facilitate a meeting with the instructor, student, and Chemical Safety Coordinator to discuss specific needs and requirements;
- 4..2. General Requirements
 - 4..2.1. Please refer UNM policy Please refer to University of New Mexico (UNM) policy 2295 for [Service and Assistance Animals](#)..
 - 4..2.2. Dog beds or fabric pads are not appropriate for use in the lab.
 - 4..2.3. Service dogs must wear appropriate personal protective equipment to be permitted into the laboratory.

5. BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS OF SERVICE DOGS

The following are the behavior expectations for services dogs:

- If the service dog is present in lab, the dog must be trained to “stay” and “leave it” (orequivalent behavior).
- The dog must not vocalize, bark, or growl inappropriately.
- If the dog is trained to alert by vocalizing, the instructor or staff must be aware of the circumstances under which the dog would vocalize. Disruptive, extended vocalizing or barking will not be permitted, unless in proper context.
- The dog must not behave aggressively towards other people – snapping, snarling, growling, charging, swiping, etc.
- The dog must not jump up on other people.
- The people in the laboratory will be informed that the dog is a service dog and always working.
- Individuals with adverse reactions to dogs will be accommodated as necessary;
- Interaction with the dog is by permission of the owner and only permitted outside of the laboratory.
- If the service dog displays any of these behaviors, the dog will not be permitted in the laboratory until documented and demonstrated re-training has occurred.

6. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR SERVICE DOGS

Service dogs entering laboratories must be protected to prevent exposure to hazardous chemicals, broken glass or other hazards that might be present in the laboratory environment.

This PPE shall be worn by the dog and purchased by the owner and include the following:

- Disposable or reusable boots to cover the feet such as commercially if the dog will allow. If this is not possible then the owner will acknowledge the condition;
- The handler may choose to wipe the dog’s feet after leaving the lab;
- Tent or other covering the dog during class;

- Disposable plastic-backed absorbent lab paper or pet pads for the dog to lie on during lab to protect them from whatever might be on the floor. If the tent is not used;

If appropriate PPE is not brought to the lab, then the service dog will not be permitted into the laboratory.

7. REFERENCES

- University of New Mexico (UNM) policy 2295 for Service and Assistance Animals..
- [American with Disabilities Act \(ADA\) Requirements for Service Animals](#)

8. REVISIONS

New Document: June 2021

Needs Assessment for Service Dog In Teaching or Research Laboratory		
Requestors Name:	Date:	
E-mail:	Phone:	
Department/Class:		
Building/Room:		
Faculty/Supervisor Name:	E-mail:	
	Yes	No
1. Is the dog a service dog or dog-in-training required because of a disability?		
2. Do you require the dog to be with you at all times?		
3. Do you need a place for the dog to stay while you're in lab and not needing the dog at that time?		
4. What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?		
5. What kind of PPE do you want for the dog?		
6. How does the dog alert?		
7. What should the Instructor do if the dog alerts?		
8. What should the be done in case of injury to dog? Washing: First Aid Emergency Contact Vet Emergency Contact Handler		
9. Additional Information		