

CIIS Animal Policy For Persons With Disabilities

The following information is provided to help define the role and the place of animals at California Institute of Integral Studies in promoting the safety, dignity, and independence of persons with disabilities.

1. Service Animals are:

"...any . . . animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals who are hearing impaired to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items."

A service animal is one which is specifically trained to perform tasks that are related to the disability of the person. A service animal does not need to be licensed or certified by a state or local government or a training program. Service animals whose behavior poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others or is disruptive to the campus community may be excluded.

Most service animals working are dogs, such as a guide dog that serves as a travel tool for persons with severe visual impairments or who are blind; a hearing dog which has been trained to alert a person with significant hearing loss or who is deaf when a sound occurs; a service/support dog that has been trained to assist a person who has a mobility or health impairments with carrying, fetching, opening doors, ringing doorbells, activating elevator buttons, steadying a person while walking, helping a person up after the person falls, etc.; a SSigDOG is a dog trained to assist a person with autism (the dog alerts the partner to distracting repetitive movements common among those with autism); and a seizure response dog is a dog trained to assist a person with a seizure disorder (the dog may stand guard over the person during a seizure, or the dog may go for help).

2. Approval Authority: Faculty and staff with a disability who will use a service animal must request approval from Human Resources. Students and others who wish to utilize a service animal must request approval from the Dean of Students Office.

3. Responsibilities For Persons With Disabilities Wishing To Use Service Animals: The service animal's partner is at all times solely responsible for the cost of care, arrangements and responsibilities for the well-being of a service animal, as well as any property damage. Service animals on campus must meet requirements for the presence of animals in public places (vaccinations, licensure, ID tags, etc.) mandated by state or local ordinances. The animal must be in good health. The person with a disability must be in full control of the animal at all times. Reasonable behavior is required from service animals while on campus. The partner must follow local ordinances in cleaning up after the animal. The partner of an animal that is unruly or disruptive (e.g., barking, running around, bringing attention to itself) may be asked to remove the animal from Institute facilities. Animals in Institute housing must have an annual clean bill of health from a licensed veterinarian. Service animals who are ill should not be taken into public areas. Partners with animals which are unclean, malodorous and/or bedraggled may be asked to leave Institute facilities.

4. Areas Off Limits To Service Animals: Mechanical rooms, such as boiler rooms, facility equipment rooms, electric closets, elevator control rooms and custodial closets, are off-limits to service animals. Any room where protective clothing is worn is off-limits to service animals. Any room, including a classroom, where there are sharp metal cuttings or other sharp objects on the floor or protruding from a surface; where there is hot material on the floor (e.g., molten metal or glass); where there is a high level of dust; or where there is moving machinery is off-limits to service animals. If a student, faculty member, or staff member has an off-campus internship, or other Institute-related activity, then the student, staff, or faculty member must abide by the service animal policy at the off-campus entity.

5. “Emotional Support” Animals: “Emotional support” animals do not qualify as service animals because they are not trained to do specific tasks that help the person deal with the disability. They are, however, permitted in the Institute residence of the person with the disability, only.

6. Grievances: Any partner dissatisfied with a decision made concerning a service animal should follow the applicable Dispute Resolution Procedures. Students should contact Student Disability Services. Staff and faculty members should refer to the appropriate handbook.