Service animals assisting individuals with disabilities are permitted on campus. To utilize a service animal for ongoing accommodation, the student should first register with Student Disability Services in the Dean of Students Office and supply appropriate documentation of disability. “Service animal” is defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as any guide dog, signal dog, or other 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 with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items.

A service animal may be asked to leave Institute facilities or programs if the animal’s behavior or presence poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others. For example, a service animal that displays vicious behavior toward people may be excluded. Questions related to the use of service animals on campus should be directed to the disability services coordinator at 415.575.3481.

Service animals may also be excluded in areas where the presence of a service animal fundamentally alters the nature of a program or activity or is disruptive. In addition, animals not covered under the ADA service animal definition can be asked to leave.

The person whom a service animal assists is referred to as a “partner.” The service animal’s partner is at all times solely responsible for the cost of care, arrangements, and responsibilities for the well-being of the service animal, as well as any property damage.

Service animals on campus must do the following:

1. Meet all requirements for the presence of animals in public places (vaccinations, licensure, ID tags, etc.) mandated by state or local ordinance.
2. Be Healthy: The animal must be in good health.
3. Be Under Control of Partner: 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 defecates. Partners who are not physically able to pick up and dispose of feces are responsible for making necessary arrangements for assistance.

In addition, students with animals used for psychological purposes must follow the same guidelines as outlined for service animals. Approval will be determined by the Dean of Students Office on a case-by-case basis.