SERVICE ANIMALS POLICY AND AGREEMENT

Canisius College complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, which states, “No otherwise qualified person with a disability in the United States...shall, solely on the basis of a disability, be denied access to, or the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity provided by any institution receiving federal assistance.” Canisius intends to provide the broadest possible access to service animals in all of its public areas. The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a service animal as “any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability.”

A service animal is not a pet, but can perform some of the functions and tasks that an individual with a disability cannot perform himself or herself. Animals are considered “service animals” under ADA, if they meet this definition, regardless of whether they have been licensed or certified by a state or local government. Therapy animals are not considered service animals. Below are basic policy guidelines for Canisius College:

1. A service animal may be excluded from a facility, including a classroom if that animal poses a direct threat to the health of safety of others.
2. A service animal may be excluded from a facility, including a classroom, if that animal’s behavior, such as barking, is disruptive to the other participants within the facility.
3. If a service animal is excluded from a facility, the individual with a disability will be given the option of continued classroom participation, with assistance, within the facility.
4. The service animal must be clean, in good health, with current rabies vaccination.
5. All service animals must be on a leash at all times.
6. All students and college employees must abide by current city ordinances/laws pertaining to licensing and vaccination requirement for service animals. It is the responsibility of the owner and/or user of the animal to know about these ordinances and/or laws.
7. All owners of service animals are responsible to clean up after and properly dispose of their animal’s feces while on campus.

Students wishing to utilize a service animal on campus should contact the Griff Center for Academic Engagement – Accessibility Support. Canisius considers the use of a service animal to be an accommodation, and therefore requires any individual who intends to have a service animal on campus on a regular basis be registered with the Accessibility Support Office and have a up-to-date documentation on file. If you have further questions, please contact Accessibility Support at 716-888-2476.
Acknowledgement and Release of Information Consent Form

I have read and understand the Service Animal Policy and Agreement and I agree to abide by the requirements applicable to Service Animals. I understand that if I fail to meet the requirements set forth in the Policy, Canisius College has the right to remove the Service Animal and I will be nonetheless required to fulfill my housing, academic, and all other obligations for the remainder of the academic year and housing contract.

I furthermore give permission to Accessibility Support to disclose to others impacted by the presence of my Service Animal (e.g., Student Life staff, potential and/or actual roommate(s)/neighbor(s)) that I will be living with an animal as an accommodation. I understand that this information will be shared with the intent of preparing for the presence of the Service Animal and/or resolving any potential issues associated with the presence of the Service animal.

Student Name__________________________________________  ID#____________________________________

________________________________________________________
Student Signature _________________________ Date

________________________________________________________
Griff Center • Accessibility Support Representative Date

________________________________________________________
Student Life Representative _________________________ Date

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