

SERVICE DOGS

Policy

We hold the health and safety of our congregants and visitors above all else. In general, pets of all kinds are not to be in publicly-occupied spaces of the buildings. This is to reduce the possibility of allergic reactions, tripping, phobic-reactions or other adverse effects that can be triggered by animals. However, any Service Dog is exempt from this policy.

When it comes to what is and what is not a Service Dog, federal law is clear. A Service Dog, as defined in the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, is any dog who is individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability. Service Dogs, when accompanied by an individual with a disability of any kind, may have complete public access to UUCA buildings.

In order to be a Service Dog with public access, a dog **MUST** meet three points of law:

1. Be specifically trained to perform work or tasks that mitigate the handler's disability.
2. Be accompanied by a person with a physical, mental, developmental or other disability.
3. Be house trained and under the control of the handler.

There are no other requirements (no documentation, no gear, no certification, no registration, no anything else) for a dog to be a Service Dog, and it's quite simple: if a dog is **NOT** task-trained, working directly for an individual with a disability and under the direct control of the handler, it is **NOT** a Service Dog. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals and are not permitted in publicly-occupied spaces of our buildings.

Procedure

If a dog is brought into a publicly-occupied space in one of our buildings and it is not clear what service a particular animal might provide, two questions may be asked:

1. Is the animal a service animal because of a disability?
2. What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

The questioner cannot make any inquiries into the person's disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card or training documentation for the animal, or ask that the animal demonstrate its ability or perform the work or task.

If the animal is deemed to not be a service animal, the owner will be politely asked to remove the animal from the premises.

Revision History	
Responsible Staff Member: Director of Administration	
Date	Description of revision
December 2018	Created