

Guidelines for the Use of Service Animals on Campus

Statutory Background

On January 18th, 2016, the Province implemented the new [Guide Dog and Service Dog Act](#) and [Guide Dog and Service Dog Regulation](#). The Act allows guide dog teams or dog-in-training teams to enter and use any place, accommodation, building or conveyance to which the public is invited or has access to, so long as the dog does not occupy a seat on a public conveyance or occupy a seat in a place where food is served, and is held by a leash or harness.

In addition to respecting the statutory goals and intentions of the *Guide Dog and Service Dog Act*, the University is committed to its statutory responsibility under the *BC Human Rights Code* to reasonably accommodate persons with disabilities. This includes students and employees requiring guide dogs and service dogs to assist them with daily living. This statutory responsibility also includes students and employees requiring therapy or emotional support animals.

Policy References

The University's Buildings and Grounds Usage Policy ([BP3105](#)) has been clarified to clearly state that this policy does not apply to animals permitted by the *Guide Dog and Service Dog Act* to be on University Grounds or in University Buildings.

All requests from individuals who require an animal to assist with a disability, not covered by the *Guide Dog and Service Dog Act*, will be reviewed and documented in accordance with Policy [#AC1205](#) (Academic Accommodation and Access for Students with Disabilities) and/or Policy [#HR6115](#) (Employment Accommodation).

Procedure for Campus Administrators

The *Guide Dog and Service Dog Act* prohibits interference with the exercise of this right of entry and use. Such interference is an offence and may result in a fine of up to \$3,000. The BC Human Rights Tribunal has found that requesting identification for a service animal may be discriminatory in circumstances where an individual's disability and reliance on the service animal is obvious. As such, please consult with the procedural authorities for Policy [#AC1205](#) (Academic Accommodation and Access for Students with Disabilities) and/or Policy [#HR6115](#) (Employment Accommodation) if you have any questions from students or employees who require an animal to assist with a disability. Other than an animal authorized under the *Guide Dog and Service Dog Act*, or by an approved accommodation request, pets are not permitted in university buildings.

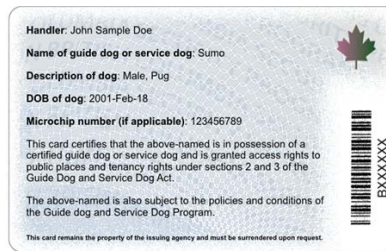
Responsibilities of Guide Dog and Service Dog Handlers

Students and employees are responsible for ensuring that their guide dogs and service dogs are certified (including renewals) in conformity with the [Guide Dog and Service Dog Act](#) and [Guide Dog and Service Dog Regulation](#). Example of new look for certificate:

Front:



Back:



Responsibilities of Handlers of Animals permitted on Campus

While on campus, handlers of animals permitted by law, such as emotional support animals and Guide Dogs and Service Dogs, are expected to:

- have control of the animal, including ensuring the animal is appropriately restrained such as wearing a harness or leash;
- ensure the animal is housebroken; the handler is responsible for cleaning up after it;
- ensure the animal is clean, free of fleas, in good health, vaccinated and has any required municipal animal license; and
- ensure their animal is non-disruptive and not pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others.



Other Animals and Pets

Unless permitted by law or via an approved policy exception¹, pets shall not be brought into or through any University building. This does not apply to animals housed in laboratory areas for research purposes. Persons must not bring onto University grounds any animal that is not either caged, confined to a vehicle, or on leash.

¹ See section 9.01 of Policy BP3105. Applications for exceptions to the Policy will be reviewed and approved at the sole discretion of the Executive Director, Facilities Management.

On Campus Resources

Students

Information for students, including requests from students who require an animal to assist with a disability can be directed to the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#).

Centre contact Information: Phone: 250-472-4947 Email: infocal@uvic.ca

Employees

Information for employees, including requests from employees who require an animal to assist with a disability should be directed to an employee's immediate supervisor. Human Resources will assist employees and their supervisors with requests and inquiries.

Concerns or Complaints

Students with concerns about the presence of an animal on university grounds or in university buildings may contact the Centre for Accessible Learning for advice and information.

Employees with concerns about the presence of an animal on university grounds or in university buildings should review these concerns with their immediate supervisor. Human Resources will assist employees and their supervisors as appropriate.

Reference Material

[Guide and Service Dog Act](#)

[Guide and Service Dog Regulation](#)

[Guide Dog and Service Dog Team Certification Information](#)

[Building and Grounds Usage Policy \(BP3105\)](#)

[Academic Accommodation and Access for Students with Disabilities Policy \(AC1205\)](#)

[Centre for Accessible Learning website](#)

[Employment Accommodation Policy \(HR6115\)](#)

[Return to Work/Stay at Work Program website](#)