

**BRIDGEVALLEY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**POLICY A-10**

**SERVICE ANIMALS**

**Section 1. General**

- 1.1. **Scope** — This policy defines what a service animal is, guidelines for students, faculty, and staff, as well as procedures to have a service animal on campus or in any of its rented spaces or facilities.
- 1.2. **Authority** — The Americans with Disabilities Act Sec. 36.302 (1) requires that a public accommodation modify its policies, practices and procedures to permit the use of a service animal by an individual with a disability in any area open to the general public.
- 1.3. **Effective Date** — July 12, 2013; Revised February 7, 2020. **New Effective Date** — March 11, 2020.

**Section 2. Definitions (Americans with Disabilities Act Sec. 36.104)**

- 2.1. **Service Animal:** Any dog or miniature horse that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding, alerting, pulling a wheelchair, fetching, opening doors is classified as a service animal under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- 2.2. **Guide Dog or Miniature Horse:** Is a carefully trained animal that serves as a travel tool by persons with severe visual impairments or who are blind.
- 2.3. **Hearing/Signal Dog or Miniature Horse:** Is trained to alert a person with significant hearing loss, or who is deaf, when a particular sound occurs.
- 2.4. **Sensory Signal (or Sig) Dog or Miniature Horse:** Is trained to assist a person with autism. The animal alerts the partner to distracting, repetitive movements and may provide support similar to that provided by a service animal for a person who is vision or hearing impaired.
- 2.5. **Seizure Response Dog or Miniature Horse:** Is trained to assist a person with a seizure disorder. The animal may stand guard over the person during a seizure or may go for help. Some have learned to predict a seizure and warn the person in advance.

- 2.6 **Emotional Support Animal (ESA):** The Americans with Disabilities Act and the U.S. Department of Justice have established two training requirements for an animal to be considered a service animal. The first is that a service animal must be individually trained to perform tasks or work for the benefit of a person with a disability. The second is that a service animal must be trained to behave properly in places of public accommodation. Animals with the sole function of providing emotional support, well-being, comfort or companionship, are not considered service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### **Section 3. Documentation Requirements**

- 3.1 **Students:** Students with disabilities who require the use of a service animal are not required to register with Accessibility Services. However, those students are encouraged to contact the Accessibility Services Office (located in the Division of Student Services) for assistance when needed.
- 3.2 **Faculty and Staff:** Should provide documentation to the Human Resources Office. Faculty/Staff who are not seeking accommodations are not required to submit documentation regarding the service animal.
- 3.3 **Visitors:** Need not report service animals on campus but are expected to follow the BridgeValley service animal policy. This policy may be found on the BridgeValley website and in the Division of Student Services.
- 3.4 **Animals:** Students bringing a service animal to the BridgeValley campus must abide by all state and local requirements for the presence of animals in public places including vaccinations, licensure, and identification tags, as appropriate. BridgeValley is not responsible for care or supervision of a service animal. The owner of a service animal is personally responsible for any damages to a facility or sponsored event.

### **Section 4. Owner Responsibilities**

- 4.1 The owner is responsible for clean-up, care, feeding, and supervision of their animal at all times while on campus.
- 4.2 The owner needs to maintain control of the animal at all times to ensure that it is not disruptive to the rest of the campus community.
- 4.3 The owner is responsible for any damage done to any college property by the animal. Damages should be reported to the appropriate campus administrator immediately.

### **Section 5. Exclusion from Campus**

- 5.1 Every attempt for accommodations for service animals on BridgeValley's campus will be made at all times. However, a service animal may be banned or denied on campus for reasons including but not limited to below:

- 5.1.1 **Disruptive Behavior:** This includes behavior that interferes with classroom instruction or college activities, including but not limited to, barking, whining, growling, wandering, sniffing (people, food, tables, others belongings), initiating contact with someone without owner's permission.
- 5.1.2 **Illness:** Any animal that is ill shall not be permitted on any campus grounds.
- 5.1.3 **Hygiene:** This includes but is not limited to all animals that are dirty, strong odor, not groomed, has fleas or ticks.
- 5.1.4 **Aggressive Behavior:** Any animal that is aggressive towards another individual on campus shall not be tolerated. This will be determined on a case by case basis by the appropriate campus administrator.
- 5.1.5 **Owner Not Being Responsible:** Should the owner break any sections listed in the service animal policy, accommodations may be revoked. This will be determined on a case by case basis by the appropriate campus administrator.

## **Section 6. Conflicting Disabilities**

- 6.1 Persons with conflicting disabilities (i.e., asthma, allergies) should contact the appropriate campus administrator and provide verifiable medical documentation to support their claim. All parties involved will be taken into consideration and resolution will be announced as soon as possible.

## **Section 7. Concerns**

- 7.1 Concerns regarding a student's service animal should be submitted to the Division of Student Services. The Vice President for Student Affairs or his/her designee will work together with the affected party to discuss and resolve all concerns related to service animals on campus in compliance with this policy.
- 7.2 Concerns regarding a faculty or staff member's service animal should be directed to Human Resources. The Human Resources Director will work with the affected party to resolve all concerns related to service animals on campus in compliance with this policy.