

BOARD POLICY ADOPTED: June 8, 2016

SERIES NUMBER: 526

TITLE:       **Student Personnel**  
  
              **Service and Assistance Animal Policy**

Iowa Valley Community College District prohibits the presence of animals on its campuses, with the exception of those animals used for academic purposes (e.g., laboratory and instructional use), service animals, and assistance animals (limited to campus housing only and with prior approval). Service and assistance animals are not pets, and distinctions between these two types of animals is provided below.

Per the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) 2010 revised requirements, **Service Animals** are defined as dogs that are individually trained to work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Examples of such work/tasks include: Guiding people who are blind; alerting those who are deaf; pulling a wheelchair; alerting/protecting a person having a seizure; reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications; calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack. The work/task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Note that a dog whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support (i.e., an assistance animal, as defined below) does not qualify as a service animal under the ADA.

An **Assistance Animal** works, provides assistance, or performs tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, or provides emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's disability. This definition aligns with the Fair Housing Act (FHA) and Section 504 of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations, and for IVCCD purposes also includes those animals that may be identified by other

names (e.g., companion animals, therapy animals, and emotional support animals). Assistance animals are not required to be individually trained or certified.

Approval of the use of assistance animals by the IVCCD Disability/Accommodation Services Office must be obtained by the owner/handler before such animals are allowed on the IVCCD campus.

IVCCD may ask individuals who have disabilities that are not readily apparent or known to the IVCCD staff to submit reliable documentation of a disability and the disability related need for an assistance animal. Reliable documentation is a statement from a physician, psychiatrist, social worker, or other mental health professional that the animal provides emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of an existing disability. Such documentation will be sufficient if it established that an individual has a disability (but no specifics concerning the disability) and the animal in question will provide some type of disability related assistance or emotional support.

In limited situations miniature horses may qualify as a service animal. Dogs are generally the most common type of assistance animal but other animals may qualify and may be approved on a case-by-case basis.