

5060 Animals

Animals are not allowed in Teachwell Solutions buildings or on Teachwell Solutions property without the written permission of the administrator except as provided in this policy.

The Teachwell Solutions does not permit discrimination against individuals with disabilities, including those who require the assistance of a service animal. An individual with a disability is permitted to be accompanied by his/her service animal on Teachwell Solutions property when required by law, subject to the conditions of this policy.

Service Animal. A "service animal" is a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Work or tasks **do not** include the crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the handler's disability or necessary to mitigate a disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. **See also**, Miniature Horses below.

Teachwell Solutions Inquiries. Teachwell Solutions officials **may** ask the owner or handler of an animal whether the animal is required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to do **unless** the answers to these inquiries are readily apparent. Teachwell Solutions officials **may not** ask about the nature or extent of a person's disability and may not require documentary proof of certification or licensing as a service animal.

Procedural Requirements. The following requirements must be satisfied **before** a service animal will be allowed in Teachwell Solutions buildings or on Teachwell Solutions grounds:

Request. A person who wants to be accompanied by his/her service animal must submit a written request form to an administrator. The request form is attached to this policy. These requests must be renewed each school year or whenever a different service animal will be used.

Health and Vaccination. The service animal must be in good health and immunized against diseases common to that type of animal. The owner or handler of the animal must submit proof of current licensure from the local licensing authority and proof of the service animal's current vaccinations and immunizations from a licensed veterinarian.

Service animals will not be allowed in Teachwell Solutions buildings or other Teachwell Solutions property until the Teachwell Solutions has approved the request.

Control. A service animal must be under the control of its handler at all times. The service animal must have a harness, backpack, vest identifying the dog as a trained service dog, leash, or other tether. If the handler is unable to use a harness, backpack, vest, leash, or other tether, because of a disability or the use of a harness, backpack, vest, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, the use of these items is not required. However, the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control.

Exclusion or Removal from Teachwell Solutions. A service animal may be excluded from Teachwell Solutions property and buildings if an Teachwell Solutions administrator determines that:

- (1) A handler does not have control of the service animal;
- (2) The service animal is not housebroken;
- (3) The service animal presents a direct and immediate threat to others in the Teachwell Solutions; or
- (4) The animal's presence fundamentally alters the nature of the service, program, or activity.

The handler or the student's parent or guardian shall be required to remove the service animal from Teachwell Solutions premises immediately upon such a determination. If the service animal is removed, the individual with a disability shall be provided with the opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without the service animal.

Allergic Reactions. If any student or Teachwell Solutions employee assigned to a classroom or mode of transportation in which a service animal is permitted suffers an allergic reaction to the service animal, the person having custody and control of the animal will be required to remove the animal to a different location designated by an administrator. The Teachwell Solutions will arrange a meeting between Teachwell Solutions personnel, the

individual with the disability, and the parents or guardian(s) of the person with the disability if that person is a student to develop an alternate plan.

Supervision and Care of Service Animals. The owner or handler of a service animal is solely responsible for the supervision and care of the animal, including any feeding, exercising, and clean up while the animal is in an Teachwell Solutions building or on Teachwell Solutions property. The student's parent or guardian is responsible for providing for the supervision and the care of the animal in the event that his or her student is not able to do so. The Teachwell Solutions is not responsible for providing any care, supervision, or assistance for a service animal.

Extra Charges. The owner or handler of a service animal will not be required to pay an admission fee or a charge for the animal to attend events for which a fee is charged.

Damage to Teachwell Solutions Property and Injuries. The owner or handler of a service animal is solely responsible and liable for any damage to Teachwell Solutions property or injury to personnel, students, or others caused by the animal.

Miniature Horses. Requests to permit the use of a miniature horse by an individual with a disability will be addressed on a case-by-case basis by considering the following factors:

- (1) The type, size, and weight of the miniature horse and whether the facility can accommodate these features;
- (2) Whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse;
- (3) Whether the miniature horse is housebroken; and
- (4) Whether the miniature horse's presence in a specific facility compromises legitimate safety requirements that are necessary for safe operation.

All additional requirements outlined in this policy, which apply to service animals, shall apply to miniature horses.

Service Animal in Training. This policy shall also be applicable to service animals in training that are accompanied by a bona fide trainer.

Denial of Access and Grievance. If an Teachwell Solutions official denies a request for access of a service animal, the disabled individual or parent or

guardian can file a written grievance with the Teachwell Solutions's Section 504 Coordinator.

Adopted on: 8/15/2023

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