

CURRY COLLEGE

Curry College Health Center

Service and Emotional Support Animals

I. POLICY

Curry College Health Center (“Health Center”) upholds and supports Curry College’s [Service and Emotional Support Animals Policy](#). The Health Center follows specific guidelines and restrictions regarding animals in the clinical setting while ensuring compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and applicable federal and state laws.

II. SCOPE

This policy applies to all Health Center staff and students bringing animals into the Health Center. It governs the presence of animals during appointments, visits, or while receiving services at the Health Center.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Service Animal:** Any animal, usually a dog, that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. Other animals do not qualify as service animals. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, guiding an individual who is blind or has low vision with navigation, alerting an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, and alerting and protecting an individual during a seizure. The work or task a service animal has been trained to provide must be directly related to the functional limitations of the person’s disability. Animals whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals.
- B. **Emotional Support Animals (ESA):** A category of animals that may work, provide assistance, or perform physical tasks, for an individual with a disability and/or provide necessary emotional support to an individual with a mental or

psychiatric disability that alleviates one or more identified symptoms of an individual's disability, but which are not considered Service Animals under relevant federal or state regulations. Unlike Service Animals, ESAs do not require specific training to perform tasks.

C. **Pet:** Any animal that is not trained or designated as a Service Animal or ESA.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. Only animals approved under the College's [Service and Emotional Support Animals Policy](#) are permitted in the Health Center. Animals classified as pets are not permitted.

B. **Verification of Service Animals**

a. In situations where it is not obvious that the animal is a service animal, Health Center staff may ask only the following two (2) questions per ADA guidelines:

- i. Is the animal required because of a disability?
- ii. What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

b. Examples of qualified answers include:

- i. Guiding a person who has visual impairment;
- ii. Alerting a person who is deaf or hard of hearing;
- iii. Pulling a wheelchair;
- iv. Alerting and protecting a person who has a seizure disorder;
- v. Reminding a person with a mental illness to take prescribed medication; or
- vi. Calming a person who has post-traumatic stress disorder during a panic attack.

c. Staff may not ask about the person's disability, require medical documentation, or ask for demonstration of the task. **The law requires staff to take the individual at their word.**

C. ESAs are generally not permitted inside the Health Center. Please contact the Office of Accessibility Services regarding permissible locations for ESAs on campus.

D. **Health and Safety Requirements**

a. All Service Animals must be:

- i. Under the control of the handler at all times (leashed or harnessed unless this interferes with the animal's work);
 - ii. Housebroken and free of aggressive behavior;
 - iii. In compliance with any laws pertaining to animal licensing, vaccination, and owner identification.
- b. Health Center staff may require the removal of an animal if it is disruptive, not housebroken, or poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others.
- c. Health Center staff and students should practice good hand hygiene after contact with the animal.

V. REFERENCES

[Service and Emotional Support Animals Policy](#)

28 CFR 34.104

28 CFR 35.136

28 CFR 36.104

28 CFR 36.302

40 U.S.C. § 3103

42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.

M.G.L. c. 151C, § 2(e)

M.G.L. c. 272, § 98A

Date of Initial Procedure: June 2026

Date of Policy Revision:

Approved by: