



Vanguard University Disability Services Guidance for Service Animals in Laboratories for Faculty, Staff, and Students

Rationale

Vanguard Disability Services has developed this guidance to ensure the safety of faculty, staff, students and Service Animals in teaching and research laboratories. A Service Animal is an animal (dog) individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. These tasks include but are not limited to: guiding individuals with impaired vision; alerting individuals who are hearing impaired to intruders or sounds; pulling a wheelchair; or fetching dropped items.

Guidance for Faculty

The faculty have been informed regarding the presence of a Service Animal in the laboratory prior to the start of the semester, or when the student has completed the process of requesting accommodations. Service Animals are permitted to accompany students with disabilities in all areas of a facility where the student is allowed to go. If a student brings any animal except a dog, the faculty or staff member can prohibit that animal from being in the lab. Vanguard faculty inform/train all students regarding the potential hazards present in the laboratory. Students with a Service Animal are encouraged to meet with faculty or laboratory staff to discuss what measures need to be taken to provide protection for their Service Animal.

As long as the Service Animal is under the control of their handler at all times, the Service Animal is permitted in the laboratory. Service Animals can only be excluded or asked to leave the laboratory if:

1. The Service Animal is out of control (i.e acting aggressively or causing disruptions to the class) and the handler does not take effective action to control it
2. The Service Animal is not housebroken
3. If the Service Animal is not wearing its PPE gear

If the Service Animal behaves inappropriately, faculty or laboratory staff may tell the Service Animal handler to leave with their Service Animal, then seek assistance from Disability Services for guidance on how to proceed in addressing the situation.

If you have further questions, please contact Disability Services at disabilityservices@vanguard.edu, call 714-619-6550, or stop by Smith Hall 103.

Guidance for Service Animal Handlers

Vanguard University is committed to all students' safety and success in the laboratory. If success includes the use of a Service Animal, we want to make sure your Service Animal is safe and secure. Laboratories are not hazard-free areas. Hazardous chemicals, open flames, glassware, and electrical equipment are all used.

Safety Equipment Occupants in teaching and research laboratories are to be appropriately clothed and wear personal protective equipment (PPE), depending on the PPE requirements of the area, to prevent exposure to hazardous chemicals, broken glass, or other hazards that might be present in the laboratory environment. Animal beds or fabric pads are not appropriate for use in the lab. Any PPE that is provided to the student by the University will also be provided to the Service Animal. It will be the student's responsibility to provide any additional protective equipment for their Service Animal, if he or she so chooses, and if it is approved by Vanguard University laboratory staff. Recommended vendors are listed below.

Required PPE includes:

1. Laboratory bench liner
2. Rubber boots
3. Dog Goggles
4. Lab Coat (Service Animal handlers pay the cost for their dog's lab coat)

Service animal PPE appropriate for laboratory use must be waterproof and cut/tear-resistant to offer protection similar to lab coats, disposable gloves, closed-toe and –heel shoes, and safety glasses or chemical splash goggles. The items do not have to be purchased from the vendors listed below, but they must be of similar type and materials and provide the same level of protection.

Some vendors are:

Pawz Dog Boots <https://pawzdogboots.com>

Maytex (for disposable lab coats) http://www.maytexcorp.com/products_apparel.htm

Eye Protection – Rex Specs <https://www.rexspecs.com>

Doggles <https://woof.doggles.com/shop-for-dogs/eyewear/dgil-doggles-ils>

Service Animals must wear PPE equipment whenever their handlers are required to wear it, and they must wear it for the duration of the lab. If there are laboratory days when it is not required for the students, Service Animals do not need to wear PPE.

Behavior expectations of Service Animals and their Handlers

Service Animal handlers are expected to abide by the rules and safety requirements of all laboratory participants at all times. Handlers are also responsible for the behavior of their Service Animals. Service Animals must not show aggression toward other animals or people in the laboratory. Handlers are responsible for any damage or mess caused by the animal. Handlers should inform others how to appropriately interact with their Service Animal. If students wish to grant permission for anyone in the lab to interact with their Service Animal, doing so must not disrupt the task/s the Service Animal is expected to perform for its handler, and must not disrupt laboratory work or instruction. If the animal behaves inappropriately, the student will be asked to remove their service animal from the lab.