SERVICE ANIMALS ON CAMPUS

Simon’s Rock complies with the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA) in allowing the use of service animals for students, staff and visitors. By law, a service animal means any dog that is 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. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the owner/handler’s disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks;
- Alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds;
- Providing non-violent protection or rescue work;
- Pulling a wheelchair;
- Assisting an individual during a seizure;
- Alerting individuals to the presence of allergens;
- Providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities;
- Helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors.

Students who require the use of a service animal on campus are encouraged, but not required, to contact the Director of Accessibility. If a student plans to have their service animal live with them in residence, we ask that they provide Simon’s Rock with advance notice. Notice to Simon’s Rock is used solely to ensure the appropriate housing placement is made. Students should provide notice to Simon’s Rock by contacting The Director of Accessibility and Academic Support, Jean Altshuler (jaltsuler@simons-rock.edu). Simon’s Rock may not ask about the nature or extent of a person’s disability. Simon’s Rock may, however, ask if the animal is required because of a disability, as well as what work or tasks the animal has been trained to perform.

It is the policy of Simon’s Rock that service animals assisting individuals with disabilities are generally permitted in all Simon’s Rock facilities, programs, and activities except as described below or otherwise governed by applicable law.

1. **Owner/Handler Responsibilities**
   While access rights are legally afforded to users of service animals, that access is accompanied by the responsibility of ensuring that animals act and respond appropriately at all times while in public. Owners/handlers are responsible for ensuring the safety of their service animals.

2. **Control Requirements**
   - The service animal must be house broken.
• A service animal shall be under the control of its owner/handler. A service animal shall have a work area. Exceptions to this guideline are instances where the owner/handler’s disability interferes with the use of a harness, leash, or other tether; or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal’s safe, effective performance of work or tasks. When a leash or tether is not in use, the service animal must be otherwise under the handler’s control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means).

• The owner/handler is responsible for cleaning up after their animal’s waste, and should always carry sufficient and appropriate equipment to clean up after the animal. Waste must be properly disposed. Persons with disabilities who physically cannot clean up after their own service animal will not be required to do so; however these individuals should take their animal to designated relief areas for relief. Relief areas are typically unmowed and unmaintained areas on campus. Students with service animals residing on campus are encouraged to meet with the Director of Accessibility and Academic Support and Simon’s Rock grounds personnel to designate, on an individual basis, appropriate relief areas. If an animal relieves itself in non-designated areas, these individuals may ask a person nearby for assistance.

3. **Financial Responsibility:**
A person who has a service animal on campus (including Simon’s Rock Housing) is financially responsible for property damage caused by their service animal including but not limited to cost of repairs, replacement or cleaning of facilities or furnishings, and any bodily injury or personal injury caused to other persons by the service animal.

4. **Licensing:**
If the animal is residing on campus it must meet the town of Great Barrington and or Massachusetts licensing requirements and wear tags designating this license. If the animal accompanies a commuter student, employee or other campus visitor and resides in another locale, the animal must meet the licensing requirements of the user/handler's resident town and wear tags indicating this license.

5. **Health/Vaccinations:**
• All dogs must wear a rabies vaccination tag as required by applicable Massachusetts or local law.
• All service animals living in Simon’s Rock housing or coming onto campus on a regular basis (e.g., excluding occasional visitors or guests) must be vaccinated against diseases common to that type of animal in accordance with state and local laws, rules and regulations. All vaccinations must be current.
• Animals to be housed in Simon’s Rock housing must have an annual clean bill of health from a licensed veterinarian.

6. **Services Animals that are not house broken or under control**
If a service animal is determined to be out of control (e.g., displaying vicious behavior towards people; excessive barking, running around, nipping); or is not housebroken; the owner may be subject to action within the Simon’s Rock disciplinary process. The infraction will be reviewed on an individual basis through the student conduct process (in the case of students) and by the Director of Human Resources (in the case of employees). If either of these issues persists, the animal may be asked to leave or not be allowed participation on campus.
7. **Conflicting Disabilities**
   Allergic reactions to animals are common. Persons who have asthma, allergies, or other medical conditions affected by the presence of animals are asked to contact The Director of Accessibility and Academic Support. The person impacted by the presence of the animal must provide verifiable medical documentation to support their claim. The needs of both persons will be considered in resolving the issue.

   If an allergy/animal conflict within a residence hall cannot be resolved agreeably, then the Director of Residential Life and Housing, and the Director of Accessibility and Academic Support will collaborate to determine a solution. Please note that if a person using a service animal was assigned to a residence hall before the person with the medical reaction, the person utilizing the service animal will not be reassigned to accommodate the second person, unless they request the move.

8. **Restricted Areas**
   Simon’s Rock may restrict the use of service animals in certain locations. Service animals may be restricted when their presence poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others or the animal. The safety of locations will be considered on an individual basis by The Director of Accessibility and Academic Support or Director of Human Resources, the laboratory director or professor, and the Simon’s Rock risk management team. If a location is determined to be unsafe, reasonable accommodations will be provided to ensure the individual equal access to the activity.

9. **Other Resources**
   - U.S. Department of Justice, Information about the Americans with Disabilities Act and Service Animals
     [http://www.ada.gov/pubs/adastatute08.htm](http://www.ada.gov/pubs/adastatute08.htm)
     [http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm](http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm)
   - Town of Great Barrington General Bylaws
   - Guidance on Rabies in the State of Massachusetts

Some of the above text was borrowed from the Service Animal Policy for Current Mt. Holyoke College’s Students with Disabilities.