

## SERVICE ANIMALS POLICY [ADAPTED FROM ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE POLICY ON SERVICE ANIMALS]

Seminole Community Library at SPC is committed to being a welcoming, inclusive place for all students, employees and visiting members of the public, as well as their service animals. The following is a short list of important information for individuals with disabilities who bring service animals to campus.

**What is a service animal?** Service animal means any dog or miniature horse 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. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. Note that Seminole Community Library at SPC does not permit other animals on campus such as pets or emotional support animals. **Only service dogs or service miniature horses, as defined above, are allowed.**

**Where are service animals allowed?** Generally, service animals are allowed to go anywhere that the handler is allowed to go. This includes study rooms, program rooms, study desks and carrels, etc. Note, however, if the presence of an animal could require a fundamental alteration of the nature of the activity or space the Seminole Community Library at SPC may need to engage the disabled handler in an interactive process to find an alternative accommodation.

**What must I do to bring a service animal to campus?** Individuals with a disability with service animals are *not* required to register the animal or request permission to bring the service animal to campus. Additionally, they do *not* need to provide documentation of the service animal's training and the service animal does *not* need to wear a tag, vest, or other visual proof to indicate it is a service animal.

### **Service animal handlers are responsible for their service animals**

- Individuals with a disability and their service animals must comply with the same rules regarding noise, safety, disruption, and cleanliness as individuals without disabilities.
- Service animals must be housebroken (i.e., trained so that it controls its waste elimination, absent illness or accident) and must be kept under control by a harness, leash, or other tether, unless the handler is unable to hold those, or such use would interfere with the service animal's performance of work or tasks. In such instances, the service animal must be kept under control by voice, signals, or other effective means.
- Seminole Community Library at SPC is not responsible for the care or supervision of service animals. People with disabilities are responsible for the cost, care, and supervision of service animals, including:
  - o Compliance with any laws pertaining to animal licensing, vaccination, and owner identification;
  - o Keeping the animal under control and taking effective action when it is out of control
  - o Feeding and walking the service animal, and disposing of its waste.

*If a service animal is disruptive, out of control, unhousebroken, or poses a threat then library staff may ask the individual to remove the animal from the building.*

*Approved by the Library Advisory Board on 22 January 2024*