**Animal Policy for the Marion Campus**

**Marion Technical College**

**The Ohio State University at Marion**

Pets are not permitted in any building on the Marion Campus, but are welcome to visit outdoors provided they are attended at all times, under the control of their handler, and not disruptive.

All animals are the responsibility of their handlers and should be under their control (in proximity to the handler and responsive to commands, in harness, leashed, or in a carrier). An animal’s behavior is considered the handler’s behavior; the animal will be held to the same basic standard of conduct as their handlers. If they are disruptive to university business or community behavioral expectations for educational environments, handlers may be asked to correct the animal’s behavior or remove it from the environment. Liability insurance is not required for animals on campus; however, the owner/handler will be solely responsible for any type of incident that may arise.

Service animals are generally allowed to accompany their handlers anywhere their handlers are permitted on campus (exceptions may exist in areas requiring protective clothing or equipment for access). If a service animal’s role is not apparent by observation you may be asked “Is that a service animal for a disability?” and “What service does it perform for you?” Emotional Support and Visiting Therapy animals may be allowed in specified areas of the campus with advanced approval.

All service animals are required to be current on vaccinations (verifying documentation may be requested), adequately groomed, and free of offensive odors. The Ohio State University at Marion and Marion Technical College provide a free registry for service animals through the Office for Disability Services (OSU students) or the Student Resource Center (MTC students) that may be a benefit to handlers. Information of a registered animal can be provided to public officials or first responders to ensure that service animals are evacuated in case of an emergency, for example.

Service animals in training are not recognized by federal law, but are recognized by Ohio Revised Code 955.43. Service animals in training must have a liability insurance policy provided by the nonprofit agency sponsoring the training. Typically puppy rearing (less than six months of age) focused on socialization and general obedience training is not considered service animal training.

If you are an employee and plan to bring a service animal to work please contact the ADA Coordinator Scott Lissner at ada-osu@osu.edu, 614-292-6207, Maryjo Mundey in Human Resources at OSU Marion [mundey.2@osu.edu](mailto:mundey.2@osu.edu), 740-725-6397, or Brenda Feasel in Human Resources at Marion Technical College [feaselb@mtc.edu](mailto:feaselb@mtc.edu), 740-386-4189.

If you have questions, would like assistance planning for a service animal on campus, or have a concern about your treatment and access when accompanied by your service animal, contact the Office for Disability Services at [marionds@osu.edu](mailto:marionds@osu.edu), 740-725-6247 (OSU students) or the Director of Student Disability Services at montagj@mtc.edu, 740-386-4222 (MTC students).

Emotional support animals can be a reasonable accommodation to No Pet policies. For an emotional support animal in a residential setting, you should contact your property manager or landlord for approval; emotional support animals approved for a residential setting are not typically permitted in classrooms. To discuss a campus emotional support animal accommodation:

* Students can schedule an appointment directly with the Office for Disability Services, [marionds@osu.edu](mailto:marionds@osu.edu), 740-725-6247 (OSU students) or the Director of Student Disability Services at montagj@mtc.edu, 740-386-4222 (MTC students).
* Employees can schedule an appointment directly with the ADA Coordinator Scott Lissner, ada-osu@osu.edu, 614-292-6207, Maryjo Mundey in Human Resources at OSU Marion [mundey.2@osu.edu](mailto:mundey.2@osu.edu) or 740-725-6397, or Brenda Feasel in Human Resources at Marion Technical College at [feaselb@mtc.edu](mailto:feaselb@mtc.edu), 740-386-4189.

Denial of a request for an emotional support animal may be based on insufficient documentation of disability and/or need for an emotional support animal as an accommodation; concerns about zoonosis; or demonstrated behavioral concerns.

Visiting therapy animals may be allowed access to specific facilities with permission from the program/office occupying the facilities. You can arrange assistance with this process by contacting the Office for Disability Services at [marionds@osu.edu](mailto:marionds@osu.edu), 740-725-6247 (OSU students) or the Director of Student Disability Services, montagj@mtc.edu, 740-386-4222 (MTC students).

**If you have questions or concerns related to these policies please contact the Office for Disability Services,** [**marionds@osu.edu**](mailto:marionds@osu.edu)**, 740-725-6247 (OSU students) or the Director of Student Disability Services at montagj@mtc.edu, 740-386-4222 (MTC students).**

Definitions:

Service Animal: As defined by the ADA (<http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm>), a service animal is a dog that has been trained to perform an *active task* that mitigates or partially mitigates the impact of the handler’s disability. The ADA also recognizes similarly trained miniature horses as an alternative to dogs. If you use a miniature horse as a service animal please contact the Office for Disability Services at [marionds@osu.edu](mailto:marionds@osu.edu), 740-725-6247 (OSU students) or the Director of Student Disability Services at [montagi@mtc.edu](mailto:montagi@mtc.edu), 740-386-4171 (MTC students).

Assistance Animals: Under Housing and Urban Development’s Rules (Fair Housing Act (<http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=servanimals_ntcfheo2013-01.pdf>) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act), assistance animals include animals, other than dogs, that provide active support like a service animal, as well as animals that provide passive support that alleviates or at least partially mitigates an impact of a person's disability, allowing them to benefit from OSU-Marion or MTC’s programs and services. Animals providing these passive services are referred to as Emotional Support Animals (ESAs).

Emotional Support Animals: Assistance animals that provide passive support that partially ameliorates the impact of a disability are referred to as Emotional Support Animals (ESAs). Use of an ESA on campus is a potentially reasonable accommodation. Like all accommodations the institution may ask that you document the need for the accommodation by an appropriate professional as providing passive support that alleviates one or more impacts of a person’s disability, serves a defined role in the person’s treatment, and is necessary for participation in particular programs. Such requests would be evaluated not under the Fair Housing Act, but under our responsibilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act for equal access.

Visiting Therapy Animals: Animals in the company of their handlers that have been trained to make wellness, stress reduction or therapeutic short-term visits and are made available to members of the university community on a transient basis in specific locations.

Pets: All other privately owned animals.

Handler: An individual with a disability who utilizes a Service or Assistance animal or the owner of a Visiting Therapy animal or the owner of a pet.

**Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.**

Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person’s disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

This definition does not affect or limit the broader definition of “assistance animal” under the Fair Housing Act or the broader definition of “service animal” under the Air Carrier Access Act.

Some State and local laws also define service animal more broadly than the ADA does. Information about such laws can be obtained from the State Attorney General’s office.

**Under the ADA, State and local governments, businesses, and nonprofit organizations that serve the public generally must allow service animals to accompany people with disabilities in all areas of the facility where the public is normally allowed to go.**

For example, in a hospital it would be inappropriate to exclude a service animal from areas such as patient rooms, clinics, cafeterias, or examination rooms. However, it may be appropriate to exclude a service animal from operating rooms or burn units where the animal’s presence may compromise a sterile environment.

**Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal’s work or the individual’s disability prevents using these devices.**

In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.

(U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, *Disability Rights Section*. July 12, 2011, <https://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm>)

Law enforcement canines may be present on campus and in buildings at any given time due to the nature of their work.