



## Office of Disability Services

TO: Members of the Faculty and Academic Administrators

FROM: Asha Nambiar, Director for Disability Services

RE: Service and assistance animals in classrooms or buildings

September 27, 2024

The University supports students with disabilities who use service animals or have been approved for having assistance animals as an accommodation. Since you might encounter a service animal in your classroom or building, I write to make sure you and your colleagues understand when an animal is permitted in these spaces. First, definitions:

### **Service Animal**

- A service animal is a dog that has been individually trained to work or perform tasks for a person with a disability.
- Service animals will typically wear a harness and be well-behaved; they're often, but not always, performing an identifiable task.
- Service animals are permitted in all buildings throughout campus except for locations where the animals or others may be endangered because of health and safety restrictions or where their use might compromise the integrity of research.

### **Assistance Animal**

- An assistance animal is an animal (not limited to dogs) that provides emotional support or other assistance to alleviate one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's disability. Assistance animals don't need to be trained to perform a task.
- Assistance animals, once approved, are only permitted in the student's dwelling unit. Assistance animals are generally not permitted in other areas of University buildings (for instance, libraries, academic buildings, classrooms, labs, student centers, etc.).

If you are concerned when you encounter a student with an animal in a space other than their dwelling unit that does not appear to be a service animal, please contact the Office of Disability Services ([ods@princeton.edu](mailto:ods@princeton.edu); 609-258-8840), which determines whether the animal is approved for service or assistance.

If the animal is creating a disturbance or appears to be a safety risk, please contact the Department of Public Safety at 609-258-3333.