TO: Members of the Faculty and Academic Administrators

FROM: Liz Erickson, Director for Disability Services

RE: Service and assistance animals in classrooms or buildings

September 14, 2023

The University supports students with disabilities who use service animals or have been approved to have 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. **The student’s disability for which the service animal is engaged may not be visible, but this does not mean the service animal is not necessary.**
- Service animals are permitted in all buildings throughout campus except 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 related to the symptom of the disability.
- 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’re 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; 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.