**Service Animals**

OCSRI is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities and fulfilling obligations under State and Federal law. This Policy governs the use of service animals by persons with disabilities.

Persons with disabilities may be accompanied by working service animals consistent with the provisions of this Policy.  OCSRI may prohibit the use of service animals in certain locations due to health or safety restrictions, where service animals may be in danger, or where their use may compromise the integrity of safe infection control. Restricted locations may include but are not limited to surgical areas and radiation areas.

**Service Animal:** Any dog or miniature horse individually trained to do work or perform tasks directly related to the disability that the person has. Front Office staff will be trained on policy and determining if animal is appropriate. If there is a question about whether an animal is a service animal, contact the Safety & Compliance and/or Administration. A service animal is sometimes called an assistance animal.

# **REQUIREMENTS FOR STAFF**

1. Must not inquire about the nature of a person’s disability but may ask if an animal is required because of a disability and what work the animal has been trained to perform, unless it is readily apparent that an animal is trained to do work or perform tasks for the individual with a disability.
2. Always allow a service animal to accompany the partner/handler, except where service animals are specifically prohibited (see Section II).
3. Do not pet a service animal; petting a service animal when the animal is working distracts the animal from the task at hand.
4. Do not feed or clean up after a service animal. The service animal may have specific dietary requirements.
5. Do not deliberately startle a service animal.
6. Do not separate or attempt to separate a partner/handler from her or his service animal.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE ANIMALS AND THEIR PARTNERS/HANDLERS**

1. **Vaccinations:** The animal must be immunized against diseases common to that type of animal. Dogs must have had the general maintenance vaccine series, including vaccinations against rabies, distemper, and parvovirus. All vaccinations must be current. Dogs must wear a rabies vaccination tag.
2. **Leash:** The animal must be on a leash, harness or tether at all times, unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash or other tether; or the use of a harness, leash or tether would interfere with the service animal’s safe, effective performance of work related task, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler’s control using voice control, signals, or other effective means.
3. **Under Control of Partner/Handler:** The partner/handler must always be in full control of the animal. The care and supervision of a service animal is solely the responsibility of its partner/handler. If a service animal must be separated from the handler to avoid a fundamental alteration or a threat to safety, it is the responsibility of the partner/handler to arrange for the care and supervision (excluding staff) of the animal during the period of separation.
4. **Cleanup Rule:** The partner/handler must always carry supplies sufficient to clean up the animal's feces whenever the animal and partner are on OCSRI property and properly dispose of the waste.
5. **Feeding and Other Care:** Provides the service animal with food, water, and other necessary care or makes arrangements through others (excluding staff) to do the same.

**THERAPY ANIMALS**, **EMOTIONAL SUPPORT/COMFORT ANIMALS AND PETS**

* 1. Therapy Animals, Emotional Support or Comfort Animals are not considered to be Service Animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act. **OCSRI is not required by law to allow them access to OCSRI facilities.**
	2. Generally, Therapy Animals, Emotional Support/Comfort Animals or Pets will not be permitted in OCSRI facilities. OCSRI may choose to allow Therapy Animals, Emotional Support/Comfort Animals and Pets access to our facilities in the following situations:
* Therapy animals and participating in and approved by OCSRI Volunteer Program

# **REFERENCES**

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 U.S.C. §12181 et seq

28 CFR §§ 35.104, 35.130, 35.136, 36.104, 36.208, 36.301, 36.302

Department of Justice <https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.pdf>

ADA Website <https://www.ada.gov/>