Policy: **Service Animals**	
Issuing Department**:** **Office of Disability Services** **Office of Human Resources**	
Date last revised: **March 2011**	

PURPOSE
The Office of Disability Services (ODS) provides reasonable accommodations, academic adjustments and auxiliary aids to ensure that students and community members with disabilities have access to Western Oregon University and its programs. The Office of Human Resources provides reasonable accommodations and auxiliary aids to faculty and staff.

POLICY
The ADA defines a service animal as "any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability. The ADA authorizes places of public accommodation to impose restrictions if it is a safety requirement.
The "ADA contains no blanket policy mandating the places of public accommodation permitting service animals under all circumstances". (Kincaid, 1966, p. 16). With regard to a university/college, there may be possible restrictions of service animals in clinical practice of nursing and health sciences programs, in food services programs, or in laboratories that can pose a safety risk. These exceptions would need to be considered individually to determine whether the service animal poses a possible danger, and if other reasonable accommodations can be provided.
It is the handler's responsibility to ensure the safety of the animal, the individual and other people participating. While legal access rights are afforded to users of assistance animals, with that comes the responsibility of ensuring that the animal behaves and responds appropriately at all times in public and that the partner/handler, as a team, are to adhere to the same socially acceptable standards as any individual in the community.

PROCEDURES
Definitions:
Therapy or Companion animal- An animal who provides a sense of wellbeing, comfort, affection and/or motivation. They are not trained and not afforded the legal protections of service animals. These animals are not trained to assist an individual with a disability in the activities of daily living and are not specifically covered by this policy nor under the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.
Note: Office of University Residences does not allow any pets or animals to live in the University residence halls or apartments, with the exception of: 1) fish in an aquarium no larger than 10 gallons or 2) Service animals. University Residences will provide reasonable accommodations for students with service animals (i.e. rooms/apartments with exterior entrances).
Service animal- Any animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability. The ADA defines a service animal as any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability. If they meet this definition, animals are considered service animals under the ADA regardless of whether they have been licensed or certified by a state or local government.
Service animals perform some of the functions and tasks that the individual with a disability cannot

perform for him or herself. "Seeing eye dogs" are one type of service animal, used by some individuals who are blind. This is the type of service animal with which most people are familiar. But there are service animals that assist persons with other kinds of disabilities in their day-to-day activities. Some examples include:

- Alerting persons with hearing impairments to sounds.
- Pulling wheelchairs or carrying and picking up things for persons with mobility impairments.
- Assisting persons with mobility impairments with balance.

Documentation Requirement:
A student with a disability shall provide ODS with documentation from the student's appropriate service provider (e.g. Specialist, Psychologists, Medical) that verifies the need for a service animal. A staff member with a disability shall provide the Office of Human Resources with documentation for the staff member's appropriate service provider. This documentation need not disclose the details of the disability, nor provide a detailed medical history, if the sole purpose for the request is for use of a service animal.
If the student is requesting the service animal to live with the student in the residence halls or apartments, the documentation must establish that the service animal is necessary in order for the student to be able to function within and use on campus residences and/or university facilities and activities. A student who wishes to have a service animal in the University Residences must make the request by submitting a petition to the Office of University Residences. The petition will be reviewed within ten days, and if approved, The Office of University Residences will provide a reasonable accommodation for the student and the service animal.

The student, community member or staff member is responsible for maintaining the following:
Service animal health: The animal must be up to date on all required vaccinations and evidence of such shall be provided by the student if requested. The animal shall be well groomed including appropriate flea and odor control.
Service animal licensing: All service animals must wear tags appropriate to the municipality in which the student holds a permanent address.
Training requirement: Written confirmation may be requested to demonstrate that the animal has been trained to work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability.

Responsibilities
The individual with a disability, the handler, is responsible for the care and supervision of his or her service animal and must maintain full control of the animal at all times. This may include controlling the animals grooming, feeding, and toilet behavior within appropriate and healthy guidelines. Services animals are trained to remain in close proximity to their handler and not to display disruptive behaviors or noises (barking, growling, or whining) and should remain on a harness or leash at all times. The handler is financially responsible for property damage causes by his or her service animal.

AUTHORITY
Western Oregon University is in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 1990, ADA Amendments Act 2008 and Oregon Revised Statute 659.405.

RESPONSIBILITY
Office of Disability Services and Vice President for Student Affairs
Office of Human Resources

Date of next review: **March 2013**