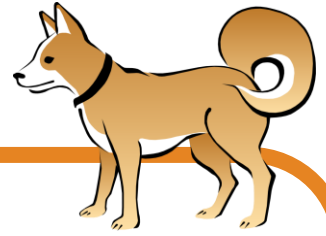


WESLEYAN COLLEGE

Service Dog Etiquette



A service dog is more than just a pet!

A service dog is necessary and provides its handler with a service. Federal law protects the rights of the person to be accompanied by the service dog in public places.

Some things to remember:

- The dog is working! Touching the service dog might distract it from its work. Always ask the owner's permission to pet or touch the service dog.
- Resist the temptation to offer treats to the service dog.
- Avoid making silly noises directed at the service dog including barking, meowing, whistling, etc.
- If the dog's behavior is disruptive or destructive, you may ask the person to remove it.

Tips on conversing with the handler about the service dog, disabilities, etc.

Questions of a personal nature should be avoided. The individual may or may not feel comfortable talking about herself or her service dog. Don't feel offended if the person declines to talk with you - not everyone wants to reveal personal information.

If you are afraid of dogs or do not like dogs:

Place yourself away from the service dog. If you are a staff member, discreetly arrange for someone else to assist the person. You may ask the person to have the service dog lie down as long as that does not interfere with its work.

If you are allergic to dogs, contact Disability Services for assistance.

Remember you may not be aware of the individual's disability when you look at her.

Some visible and nonvisible duties of Service Dogs include:

- Assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks
- Alerting individuals to the presence of allergens or medical emergencies
- Retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone
- Helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors.