

University of Nebraska Service Dogs in Training Policy

The University of Nebraska complies with Neb. Rev. Stat. 20-127 as it relates to a service animal in training. The statute states that **“a bona fide trainer of a service animal has the right to be accompanied by such animal in training in any of the places listed in subsection (2) of this section without being required to pay an extra charge for the service animal.** Such person shall be liable for any damage done to the premises or facilities or to any person by such animal.”

The Nebraska State Statute also concerns only service animal training for dogs that are to serve individuals with physical disabilities.

To be considered a bona fide trainer of a service dog the following documentation needs to be presented for approval:

- A certificate of completion from a professional certified service animal training program in compliance with the Assistance Dogs International (ADI)
- In order for the programs to meet the University standards the following minimum standards must be met:

These are minimum standards for programs that could be affiliated with ADI. All Trainers are encouraged to work at levels above the minimum standards that follow.

1. **Trainers must understand and adhere to all ADI Minimum Standards and Ethics.**
2. **Trainers must be able to produce effective working teams that meet ADI Standards (i.e. Public Access Test, demonstration of tasks) as reviewed at the 1 year anniversary of the team.**
3. **Trainers must have up to date knowledge of best practices in many areas including:**
 - learning theory
 - canine behavior
 - canine care and safety
 - a variety of training techniques, equipment and methods

Trainers must demonstrate effective:

- communication skills
- instruction of groups and individuals
- assessment and problem solving skills
- self-assessment and improvement of performance

Trainers must demonstrate:

- an understanding of the matching process of client with dog

- knowledge of the environment a team will encounter, specifically concerning family, community, school and workplace and the impact these may have on each working team.
- knowledge of and ability to determine when a training process, placement, or certification needs to be discontinued.

Trainers have a responsibility to the public, therefore they must:

- have knowledge of pertinent canine laws (i.e. leash laws and public access laws)
- build rapport and establish effective working relationships with co-workers, clients, volunteers, and the community
- use appropriate behavior in public when working with each dog and or client (i.e. train one dog at a time, be polite, show respect and consideration to people and property, and maintain good personal and canine hygiene), be willing to educate the public about assistance dogs and access rights

Once this information is provided to University ADA/504 Compliance Office, a decision will be made as to whether the trainer is certified. Then the normal process concerning the animal to be trained will follow.

Note: subsection (2) states “A blind, visually handicapped, deaf or hard of hearing, or physically disabled person is entitled to full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges of all common carriers, airplanes, motor vehicles, railroad trains, motor buses, street cars, boats, any other public conveyances or modes of transportation, hotels, lodging places, places of public accommodation, amusement, or resort, and other places to which the general public is invited, subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable alike to all persons.”