



C.S. LEWIS ACADEMY

Instilling Accountability, Responsibility, Respect

364 North SR 198 Santaquin, Utah 84655
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Animals and Pets in School Policy

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Purpose and Philosophy

Animals are sometimes authorized on school premises. C.S. Lewis Academy recognizes that under the proper conditions, animals can be an effective teaching aid or otherwise support the education of students. Additionally, there are situations when federal and state statutes allow people with disabilities to bring animals onto District premises.

C.S. Lewis Academy also recognizes that animals can bring not only benefits but also risks. This policy is adopted to guide employees, students, and the public in the use and presence of animals in school-sponsored activities.

Animals may be present under the following circumstances, each of which is more fully described in the corresponding sections of this policy.

- Class pets
- Student Pets
- Service Animals



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Class Pets

- If authorized by administration, a teacher may provide a small classroom pet. A classroom pet is an animal owned or provided by the teacher and may be kept in the classroom for longer than one day.
- A teacher must request approval from administration before bringing a classroom pet to school. The principal may approve or deny the request.
- Before approving the request, the principal or designee shall determine whether any child has a health condition (such as allergies), or other concern that could be exacerbated by exposure to the pet.
- Teachers must assume primary responsibility for the humane and proper treatment of any animals in the classroom. If animals are to be kept in the classroom on days when classes are not in session, the teacher must arrange for their care and safety.
- The pet must be kept in a secure enclosure. The teacher is responsible for maintaining the living space of the animal. Spilled food and/or bedding materials must be cleaned up daily, and odors must be mitigated.
- Each teacher is responsible for the proper supervision and control of students whenever the students interact with the classroom pet.
- Venomous animals, such as rattlesnakes and black widow spiders, are prohibited and may not be used as classroom pets.

Student Pets

- If authorized by the administration team, a teacher may allow students to bring a pet to school for a single activity such as “show and tell.” A student pet is an animal owned by a student or the student’s family



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- A teacher must request approval from the school administrator before allowing students to bring their pets to school.
- The principal may approve or deny the request.
- Before approving the request, the administration team or designee shall determine whether any child has a health condition (such as allergies) that could be exacerbated by exposure to the pet.
- Parents must be notified of the plans to have an animal in the classroom so that accommodations may be made for their student.
- Parents are required to bring the pet and take the pet home immediately following the activity.
- Pet owners are solely responsible for the care and safety of their animals and for injuries sustained to the animal or to people due to the presence of the animal at the school.

Service Animal

The term “service animal” means any dog or miniature horse that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.

The service animal must perform work or tasks directly related to the individual's disability, including, but not limited to:

- Assisting an individual who is blind or has low vision with navigation or other tasks;
- Alerting an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds;
- Providing non-violent protection or rescue work;
- Pulling a wheelchair;
- Assisting an individual during a seizure;
- Alerting an individual to the presence of an allergen;
- Retrieving an item for the individual;



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- Providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to an individual with a mobility disability; and/or
- Helping an individual with a psychiatric or neurological disability by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors.

A “service animal” does not include:

- Other species of animals, wild or domestic, trained or untrained;
- An animal used solely to provide: (a) a crime deterrent; (b) emotional support; (c) well-being; (d) comfort; or (e) companionship.
- an animal that does not meet the definition of a service animal may be permitted as a reasonable accommodation under an IEP, Section 504 plan, or ADA accommodation plan, according to applicable schools policies and procedures.

The term “perform work or tasks” means that the service animal is trained to respond to the needs of an individual with a disability in order to mitigate the disability.

The process must have two steps: (a) recognition; and (b) response. For example, if a service animal senses that an individual is about to have a psychiatric episode and from its training, responds by nudging, barking, or removing the individual to a safe location until the episode subsides, then the animal has indeed performed a task or done work in behalf of the individual with the disability, as opposed to merely sensing an event.

Service Animal Policy

- C.S. Lewis Academy acknowledges the legal rights of individuals with disabilities to be accompanied by a service animal in its facilities; on its properties; at school functions, events, and activities; and in connection with transportation services as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC § 12134; 28 C.F.R. 35.101, et seq.



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- C.S. Lewis Academy shall comply with state and federal laws concerning the rights of persons with service animals. In general, C.S. Lewis Academy shall permit the use of a service animal on its premises by an individual with a disability in accordance with applicable laws and this policy.
- Students and employees requiring use of a service animal shall notify the school administrator as described in Section 8 and may be accompanied by their service animal wherever the student or employee is permitted.
- A student or employee with a disability may be accompanied by a service animal in training if the animal is being trained for use by that student or employee to accommodate the student.
- A service animal may accompany an individual with a disability wherever the individual is permitted. Consistent with UTAH CODE ANN. § 26B-6-803, a service animal in training may accompany a member of the public wherever the member of the public is permitted.
- All service animals must be kept clean and groomed to avoid shedding, dander, and offensive odor. All service animals must be treated for, and kept free of, fleas and ticks. All service dogs must be spayed or neutered.
- The school may require a meeting with an individual using a service animal to: (a) determine if the animal complies with this policy; and (b) discuss any necessary accommodations.
- The District may require a person who will have custody and control of the service animal to sign a document stating that they have read and understood this policy.
- To ensure that the service animal does not pose a health or safety threat to any student, personnel, or other persons: Owners of a service dog must provide initial and subsequent annual documentation of the following vaccinations: DHLPPC (Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus, and Coronavirus), Bordetella, and Rabies. 7.7.2 Owners of a service miniature horse must provide initial and subsequent annual documentation



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of the following vaccinations: Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins Test), Rabies, Tetanus, Encephelomyelitis, Rhinoneumonitis, Influenza, and Strangles.

- C.S. Lewis Academy shall not ask about the nature or extent of a person's disability, but may make the following inquiries to determine whether an animal qualifies as a service animal. These inquiries may not be made if it is readily apparent that the animal is trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability (e.g., the dog is observed guiding a blind individual).
- C.S. Lewis Academy may ask if the animal is required because of a disability.
- C.S. Lewis Academy may ask what work or task the animal has been trained to perform, including what the animal is trained to recognize and what the animal's response is
- C.S. Lewis Academy shall not require documentation that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal.
- C.S. Lewis Academy may charge an individual with a disability for any damage to school property caused by his or her service animal.

Excluding a Service Animal

An administrator may exclude a service animal or ask an individual with a disability to remove the animal from the premises if:

- The animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it
- The animal is not housebroken
- The presence of the animal constitutes a "fundamental alteration" in the nature of the school district's service, program, or activity.
- Urination or defecation in inappropriate locations.
- Unnecessary vocalization (e.g., barking, growling, or whining).



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- Demonstrations of aggression towards people or other animals.
- Solicitation of attention, visiting or annoying any students or school personnel.
- Solicitation or stealing of food or other items from students or school personnel.
- Cleanliness, grooming, and odor.
- Destruction of property.

In determining whether to exclude/remove a service animal, the administrator shall consult with the Director of Special Education or his/her designee, and may consider the service animal's: Interference with the educational program of any student. If the administrator, in consultation with the applicable administrator, determines a service animal should be excluded/removed from school district premises, the animal shall be removed immediately. It shall be left to the discretion of the administrator to determine if the removal be temporary or permanent.

Service Animal Handler

A service animal shall be under the control of its handler by a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either:

- (a) the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether; or
- (b) the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks. If one of the exceptions mentioned occurs, the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control through voice control, signals, or other effective means.

C.S. Lewis Academy is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal. The service animal's handler is responsible for feeding, exercising, and cleaning up after the animal. To ensure the safety and health of individuals on the school premises, a service animal's handler should not solicit others to touch the animal. An individual accompanied by a service animal is encouraged to identify the animal by exhibiting one or more of the following:



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- The animal's laminated identification card
- The animal's service vest; or
- Another form of identification.