



# Service Animals in Public Spaces

Office of Disability Support Services  
Office of Equal Opportunity  
University of Maine  
June 19, 2017





# Accessibility at UMaine

- Federal and state law, University policy
- Non-discrimination based on being in a protected class includes people with disabilities
- Must also provide “reasonable accommodations” when requested by people with disabilities
- Part of our commitment to diversity
- Applies to employees, students, members of the public
- **It’s The Right Thing To Do**

*Each of us, our family and friends are an accident or an illness away from becoming disabled*

# What are Public Spaces at UMaine?

- Memorial Union
- Recreation Center
- Dining halls
- Libraries, theaters, sports arenas
- Walkways, lawns, gardens

Note: Classrooms, offices, and residence halls are not considered public spaces. Different requirements apply to service animals in classrooms, offices, and residence halls— contact Disability Support Services or Equal Opportunity if you have questions.



# Service Animals in Public Spaces

- Increasing number of people use service animals for various kinds of disabilities; service animals are a “reasonable accommodation” for people with disabilities who need them
- Dogs only – not other types of animals
- What questions can we ask?
  - ❖ Is this dog a service animal needed because of a disability?
  - ❖ What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?
    - ❖ If person answers yes and describes a specific task, the dog is a service animal and is allowed to accompany the person in all public spaces
- DO NOT ASK other questions
- Dog does not need a training certificate or any special equipment

# What if a Problem Arises?

- If not a service animal for a person with a disability and does not perform a specific task, explain that pets are not allowed
- If unsure whether a dog qualifies as a service animal, check with DSS or EO
- If animal demonstrates it is not under owner's control or is not housebroken, ask that animal be removed



# Service Dog Owner Responsibilities

- Current vaccination
- Housebroken
- Under control at all times (normally on a leash or in a harness)
- No past or present direct threat of harm to others
- No damage to property or University operations

*Problems in any of these will lead to telling the student to remove the dog.*

# Managers – How will you ensure your front-line employees are trained?

- Discuss at staff meeting?
- Send written communication?
- Train all new employees?
- What about student employees? What do they need to know and do?
- Who do you want them to notify if a problem or question arises?



Questions? Contact DSS or EO



*THANK YOU!*

