Emotional Support Animals and Service Animals Policy

POLICY: Emotional Support and Service Animals			
POLICY NUMBER:	700.08.01	**CUSTODIAN:**	Academic Dean
APV'D DATE:	8/11/2020		
EFFECTIVE DATE:	8/11/2020	**REVIEW DATE:**	August 2020
REFERENCES: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, Student handbook			

Part 1. Policy Background and Purpose

White Earth Tribal and Community College (WETCC) is committed to making reasonable accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. Students with disabilities who require the use of "Service" or "Assistance" animals as a reasonable accommodation may be permitted to bring such animals on campus, provided they comply with WETCC's policies and procedures regarding such animals.

Part 2. Definitions

Service Animal - is defined as any dog 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. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not considered Service Animals. The work or task of a Service Animal has been trained to provide must be directly related to the functional limitations of the person's disability. Animals whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as Service Animals. In general, a Service Animal is allowed on campus anywhere it is safe for them to be.

Emotional Support Animals - Emotional support animals are animals that provide emotional support which alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of an individual's diagnosis. Emotional Support Animals are prescribed to an individual with a diagnosis by a healthcare professional or mental health professional who has prescribing responsibilities. Emotional Support Animals are an integral part of a person's treatment process to assist in alleviating the symptoms of an individual's diagnosis. Species other than dogs or domestic cats will be considered on a case by case basis.

Emotional Support Animals are not considered Service Animals and do not normally accompany an individual. Emotional Support Animals are only permitted in outdoor spaces, if appropriate, under the proper handling. These animals are not allowed in campus buildings.

Part 3. Responsibility

The Associate Dean of Student Services is responsible for the disability services program or designee as determined by Academic Dean.

Students must follow this policy and provide any documentation to support the request for disability services.

Part 4. Policy

White Earth Tribal and Community College is committed to making reasonable accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. Students with disabilities who require the use of Service Animals as a reasonable accommodation may be permitted to bring such animals on campus provided, they comply with White Earth Tribal and Community College's policies and procedures regarding such animals.

Subpart A. The following policy will be followed in making decisions about Service Animals.

1. Students who are seeking to bring a Service Animal to campus must first contact the Associate Dean of Student Services.
2. Students will need to provide specific documentation pertaining to the request before the final decision is made. The Associate Dean of Student Services will review each request on a case by case basis.
3. The animal must not be on campus prior to approval per this policy. The approval of a request is specific to each animal and is not transferrable to another animal.
4. Students who are requesting an accommodation of a Service Animal must reapply with the Associate Dean of Student Services each academic year.
5. The review process may take up to 30 days upon receiving completed forms and documentation. This timeframe will allow the Associate Dean of Student Services to make appropriate accommodations for the requesting student.
6. A request may be denied for approval for a Service Animal if an accommodation is unreasonable. An accommodation is unreasonable if it presents an undue financial or administrative burden on the college or poses a substantial and direct threat to the personal or public safety or to the property of others or constitutes a fundamental alteration of the nature of the service or program.
7. A student receiving a denial of their request for a Service Animal may appeal the decision, in writing, to WETCC Academic Dean, within five business days. The decision of the Academic Dean is final.
8. Upon approval requesting student will be required to sign a Service Animal Agreement form with the Associate Dean of Student Services. The Service Animal Agreement form includes provisions to the above policy that the student must adhere to in order to maintain the approval.
9. If a Service Animal request is granted, the Associate Dean of Student Services will

make a reasonable effort to notify the other students of the college. There will be no disclosure of the student's disability.

10. Students who may be adversely affected by animals (i.e. respiratory disease, asthma, severe allergies) are asked to contact Associate Dean of Student Services if they are concerned about exposure to a Service Animal. Affected students may be eligible for an accommodation when being in the proximity to a Service Animal.

Subpart C. Owner Responsibilities: The owner of the Service Animal/Service Animal is expected to accept the following responsibilities

1. Comply with applicable Local, State, Tribal, and Federal Laws concerning the ownership of an animal.
2. The owner is responsible for the care and conduct of the animal.
3. Animals must be kept clean, healthy, and under the control of the owner always.
4. All required immunizations must be kept up to date and a copy of the immunizations must be on file with the Associate Dean of Student Services.
5. If an animal is to be licensed, then a copy of the license must be on file with the Associate Dean of Student Services.
6. The dog must wear a collar with appropriate tags (i.e. vaccinations, contact information, license) always.
7. Animals must possess friendly and sociable characteristics. Some specific animals can be restricted from the premises by the Associate Dean of Student Services based on any confirmed or territorial behavior.
8. Animals and their accoutrements must not pose a direct threat to the safety of others.
9. The owner is responsible for prompt clean up and appropriate disposal of the animal's waste.
10. Animals must not be disruptive to other students including, but not limited to, excessive noise.
11. White Earth Tribal and Community College is not responsible for a Service Animal.
12. The owner is responsible for any bodily injury or damage caused by the animal to any individual and is also responsible for the subsequent charges.
13. If the owner is seeking to replace a Service Animal with another, the student must sign a new Service Animal Agreement form and file a new request with the Associate Dean of Student Services.
14. Failure to comply with any of the above policies may result in the removal of the animal and the owner of the animal.