

Service Animal in Training Fostering Policy & Contract

Full-time Foster – raises and trains one service dog from the age of eight weeks until one year.

Weekend Foster – the student trains one service animal on a temporary basis during a weekend period.

Handler's Responsibilities for Service Animal

If the College and Retrieving Freedom grant a student's request to long-term or weekend-foster a service animal, the handler is solely responsible for the custody and care of the service animal and must meet the following requirements:

Dominion and Control

1. Students housed in suites, townhouses, or single rooms are eligible to foster service animals in training through RFI. Students in double rooms are not eligible to apply for full-time or weekend fostering.
2. When a service animal is outside the handler's assigned living space, it must be controlled by a leash or harness.
3. The service animal must be properly housed and restrained or otherwise under the dominion and control of the handler at all times. No handler shall permit the animal to go loose or run at large.
4. If a service animal is found running at large, the animal is subject to capture and confinement and immediate removal from Wartburg's campus.

General Responsibilities

1. Prior to a service animal entering the residential spaces, approval must be obtained by the Office of Residential Life. Additionally, the contract must be completed and signed by all parties listed.
2. Each weekend the student plans to host a weekend foster service animal, they must notify Residential Life and Security via email.
3. The handler must abide by current city, county, and state ordinances, laws, and/or regulations pertaining to licensing, vaccination, and other requirements for animals. It is the Handler's responsibility to know and understand these ordinances, laws, and regulations. The College has the right to require documentation of compliance with such ordinances, laws, and/or regulations, which may include a vaccination certificate.
4. The handler is required to clean up after and properly dispose of the animal's waste in a safe and sanitary manner.
5. The handler is required to ensure the animal is well cared for at all times. Any evidence of mistreatment or abuse may result in immediate removal of the Service Animal in training and discipline for the responsible individual.
6. Wartburg will not require a student handler to pay a fee or surcharge for an approved service animal.
7. The handler may be charged for any damage caused by the service animal beyond reasonable wear and tear to the same extent that other individuals are charged for similar damages.
8. The handler's living accommodations may be inspected for fleas, ticks or other pests if at any time, concerns arise. If fleas, ticks or other pests are detected through inspection, the residence will be treated using approved fumigation methods by a college-approved pest control service. The

handler will be billed for the expense of any pest treatment above and beyond standard pest management in the residence halls.

9. The handler must fully cooperate with College and Retrieving Freedom personnel with regard to meeting the terms of this policy and developing procedures for care of the animal (e.g., cleaning the animal, feeding/watering the animal, designating an outdoor relief area, disposing of feces, etc.)
10. Service animals may not be left overnight in college housing to be cared for by any individual other than the handler. The handler is responsible for ensuring that the service animal is contained, as appropriate, when necessary.
11. Wartburg personnel shall not be required to provide care or food for any service animal including, but not limited to, removing the animal during emergency evacuation for events such as a fire alarm. Emergency personnel will determine whether to remove the animal and may not be held responsible for the care, damage to, or loss of the animal.
12. Wartburg College has the right to disclose information regarding the presence of the service animal to those individuals who may be impacted by the presence of the animal. This includes, but is not limited to, residential life personnel, maintenance personnel, security officers, and roommates or suitemates.
13. All roommates/suitemates must sign an agreement accepting the presence of the service animal in their living space. Should any resident of the room object to the presence of the animal, the request will be denied.

Additional Guidelines

1. No service animal will be approved to live in the same bedroom as an emotional support animal.
2. There will be a limit of no more than one service animal per townhouse/suite.
3. This contract is subject to change.

Removal of Service Animal

The College may require the individual to remove the service animal from college housing if:

1. The service animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others or causes substantial property damage to the property of others;
2. The service animal's presence results in a fundamental alteration of a college program;
3. The handler does not comply with the handler's responsibilities set forth above; or
4. The service animal or its presence creates an unmanageable disturbance or interference with the College community.

The College will base such determinations upon the consideration of the behavior of the particular animal at issue, and not on speculation or fear about the harm or damages an animal may cause. Any removal of the animal will be done in consultation with Retrieving Freedom Inc. Should the service animal be removed from the premises for any reason, the handler is expected to fulfill their housing obligations for the remainder of the housing contract.

Acknowledgement and Release of Information Consent Form

By my signature below, I verify that I have read, understand and will abide by the requirements outlined here and I agree to provide the additional information required to complete my request to be a weekend or full time foster for Retrieving Freedom Inc.

I have read and understand the service animal agreement and I agree to abide by the requirements applicable to service animals. I understand that if I fail to meet the requirements set forth in the policy, Wartburg has the right to remove the service animal and I will be required to fulfill my housing, academic, and all other obligations for the remainder of the housing contract.

I give permission to the College to disclose to others impacted by the presence of the service animal that I will be living with a service animal in training. I understand that this information will be shared with the intent of preparing for the presence of the service animal and resolving any potential issues associated with the service animal.

I recognize that the presence of the service animal may be noticed by others visiting or residing in college housing and agree that staff may acknowledge the presence of the animal, and explain that under certain circumstances service animals in training are permitted through an agreement with Retrieving Freedom Inc.

Handler's Name (please print)

Handler's Signature

Date

Program Coordinator
Retrieving Freedom, Inc.

Date

Director of Residence Life
Wartburg College

Date