

SERVICE DOGS IN THE LAB

When a student with a service animal chooses to take a laboratory course, she should contact the institution's disability services office to help arrange accommodations. In consultation with the faculty and staff in charge of the lab sessions, the case worker and student can devise a plan to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

LABORATORY ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SERVICE DOGS



Consider outfitting animals with personal protective equipment (goggles, boots, lab coat)



Develop in-class protocols (e.g., the lab manager can supply the student's bench area with equipment and reagents before class starts; service dog teams should use communal equipment first or last)



Ensure easy access to an exit and safety shower



Find an appropriate lab partner (who is willing to help with steps that may not be easy or possible for a student with a service dog)



Choose an appropriate lab bench position for the student/dog team (back corner where dog can lay directly behind student out of traffic)



TRAINING A SERVICE DOG FOR A LABORATORY ENVIRONMENT

- Willing to wear boots, goggles, and other protective gear
- Trained to lie on a mat with rubber backing for extended periods
- Trained to NOT automatically retrieve items off the ground
- Conditioned for emergency situations
- Willing to stand under a safety shower
- Trained to find an exit