STUDENTS

Service Animals Notes

Service Animal Definition: any guide dog, signal dog or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability.” (ADA 28 CFR Part 36)

Therapy, companion, and social animals: not legally defined by federal law

Laws relevant to Service animals:
ADA, Air Carrier Access Act, Fair Housing Amendments, Rehabilitation Act, State Laws, IDEA

Service animals must be treated in the same way guide dogs are treated. Service dogs are not requited to have special identification. We cannot ask the student what disability they have but we CAN ask what service the dog will provide for the student. Service dogs must follow any state and local health laws (i.e. vaccinations) but cannot be denied access to school/bus if owner refuses to provide proof of compliance. Fear of dogs (staff or students) is not an acceptable reason to deny transportation. Allergic reaction: route for person with allergy may need to be changed. Planning and procedures are important here.

Loading Logistics:
Animal can be separated long enough to safely board the bus (according to Delta Society National Service Dog Center DSNSDC) Should not be allowed on lift: Not enough space, could loose footing and fall off lift – dog should enter bus up the service stairs while student is on lift and lift is still on the ground. (Shortest period of separation/maximum safety for animal and child) If both dog and student enter bus using stairs, animal should board first and student following.

Riding Position and Safety:
Animal should be seated between WC and bus wall. Dog may be on leash attached to WC or held by student or may not be on a leash at all Dog can't block the aisle
Can use a non-skid rug to minimize dog slipping during ride

**Emergencies Procedures**
Dog can evacuate using service steps – if dog is fairly large, it may be able to jump out emergency door
If student not able to give commands, dog should be trained to receive basic commands from another person

Dog Behavior Management
If dog exhibits unacceptable behavior and cause is not related to student’s disability, handler may be asked to remove dog from bus if its behavior poses a direct threat to others.