

RVC Board Policy 2:20.120

Service and Other Animals Policy

It is the policy of Rock Valley College to ensure that all individuals with disabilities who require the assistance of a service animal have an equal opportunity to access College property, courses, programs, and activities. The College Administration shall establish Procedures implementing this Policy.

Except as set forth in the Procedures implementing this Policy, service animals will be permitted to accompany individuals with disabilities in all public areas of the College. For purposes of this Policy, "service animal" is defined as set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"). The support provided by the service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. Service animals whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under this Policy.

Service animals must be under the control of the handler at all times. Service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless the individual's disability prevents the use of these devices or unless these devices interfere with the service animal's safe and effective performance of the tasks it has been trained to perform. In such cases, the individual must still maintain control of the service animal by means of voice, signal, or other effective controls.

Students in need of a service animal on campus must contact Disability Support Services to request and manage their accommodations, including the need for a service animal on campus. Employees in need of a service animal on campus must contact Human Resources to request a reasonable accommodation allowing the presence of a service animal in the workplace.

Animals that do not satisfy the above criteria are strictly prohibited from all Rock Valley College property.

The College reserves the right to remove and/or exclude any service animal from College property for legitimate and legally permissible public health or safety reasons.

In implementing this Policy, Rock Valley College complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Service Animal Access Act/White Cane Law, and all other federal and State laws pertaining to service animals and/or accommodations for individuals with disabilities.

Reference: Board Report 7788

Implemented: February 23, 2021

Revised: October 28, 2025