What is a service animal?
A service animal is a dog* that is trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability.

* Although service animals are defined as dogs, entities covered by the ADA must also modify their policies to permit miniature horses where reasonable as a provision under the ADA.

Do service animals always wear a special harness?
A service dog is not required to wear a vest, special harness, or tag that identifies it as a service animal.

What’s some basic etiquette to keep in mind around service animals?
Service dogs are working animals, so it is important to avoid distracting them by petting or talking to them. The presence of a service dog should not be considered an invitation to ask questions about the person’s disability.

What if I want to confirm if an animal is a service animal?
Legally, you may only ask these two questions:
- Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?
- What task is the dog trained to perform?
The Fair Housing Act requires that assistance animals be considered a reasonable accommodation in campus housing. In order to be approved for an assistance animal, a student must comply with the Mines Animal policy.

**What is an assistance animal?**
An assistance animal is an animal of any species that, by its mere presence, provides comfort and/or support to an individual with a disability. An assistance animal is an accommodation and therefore, must be approved through Disability Support Services.

**Is there a policy that provides regulations/requirements concerning assistance animals?**
The Fair Housing Act requires that assistance animals be considered a reasonable accommodation in campus housing. In order to be approved for an assistance animal, a student must comply with the Mines Animal policy.

**Are assistance animals allowed outside a student’s room?**
Regulations created under the Fair Housing Act apply to housing facilities. Per policy, assistance animals are not typically allowed in other areas of campus, except on a rare case-by-case basis.

**What happens if an animal is out of control/disruptive?**
If an animal is disruptive, we may ask the owner to obtain control and/or resolve the disturbance. If persistent, we may require the owner to escort the animal off campus.