

Policy Location: GSCL - 6 Created: 5/15/2024
Title: Pet Policy for Greeters Revised: (date)
Policy Owner: Congregational Life Team
Associated Documents: GSCL – 1 Congregational Life Team Policy; GSA – 20 Pet Policy, GSSJ – 11 ADA Requirements & Service Animals
Last Reviewed:

Instructions for First UU Greeters regarding animals or pets.

The basic rule is that no animals are allowed inside First UU.

THE EXCEPTION to this rule is that **Service Dogs** as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are welcome in all church spaces. <https://www.ada.gov/resources/service-animals-2010-requirements/>

These Service Animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the individual's disability prevents using these devices.

However, if a Service Animal becomes out of control or threatening, it must be removed from the building.

NOTE: If someone brings an animal and claims it is a genuine **Service Animal** and you have any doubts, there are only **2 questions** you can ask:

1. Is the dog/animal a service animal required because of a disability?
2. What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

(You cannot ask about the person's disability or request a demonstration of tasks the dog can perform. Such dogs/animals are often wearing a special vest but are not required to do so.)

NOTE: If someone then says, "But my animal is an **Emotional Support Animal**," you may give them some information. You are not required to let them enter the First UU building at this time.

Emotional Support Animals: The requirements to qualify as an Emotional Support Animal are complicated. To qualify, the owner must consult with a medical health professional who would provide a valid written request (a Prescription Letter) to the institution, in this case to First UU. Even so, the ESA entitlement is usually applicable only to housing issues.

If someone really wants to bring such an Emotional Support Animal to church regularly, simply ask the minister to speak with them.

Here is one explanation of ESA service animals: <https://usserviceanimals.org/register/emotional-support-animal>