

Policy on Service and Emotional Support Animals

The Bangkok Christian College (BCC) does not normally permit animals on its campus. If a member or visitor to the International Church of Bangkok (ICB) requires a **service animal** to assist them, BCC asks that the church request permission in advance in writing.

Service Animals

A service animal is usually a dog, or sometimes a miniature horse, that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The task(s) performed by the service animal must be directly related to the person's disability. Examples of such work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder ("PTSD") during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. These animals often wear a special harness or a special vest identifying them as service animals, for example, a guide dog for the blind. ICB understands that service animals are working animals, **not pets**.

To prepare a letter to BCC, church leaders may ask individuals with service animals a few questions, including:

- Is the animal required because of a disability?
- What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

Emotional Support Animals

Please note that ICB will **not** request special permission to bring emotional support (comfort) animals to church. Emotional support animals provide reassurance just by being with a person. Dogs, cats, birds, hamsters, and many other species can serve as emotional support animals. However, they do not qualify as "service animal" as defined above.

ICB does **not** permit pets, generally defined as a domestic or tamed animal kept for companionship or pleasure, at its services or activities in accordance with BCC rules.

Animal Handler's Responsibilities

Individuals who bring a service animal onto the premises where ICB holds services are expected to:

- Keep the animal harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with an animal's work or an owner's disability prevents them from using these devices.
- Control the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls, if the animal cannot be harnessed, leashed, or tethered.

ICB's Responsibilities

ICB does not have to provide care, food, or a special location for the service animal to relieve itself. We reserve the right to remove a service animal from the premises where services are held if it:

- Is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it.
- Poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.
- Is not housebroken.

If a service animal must be removed from the premises, absent other circumstances, the owner may re-enter the premises and attend church activities without the service animal.

Questions

If you have questions about this policy, please call the ICB office at 02-258-5821 or email ICB at office@icbangkok.org.