**Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation**

**Charles W. McDowell Rehabilitation Center**

**Guide Dog**

Guide Dogs are welcomed at the McDowell Center. The Center requires that proof of current vaccinations be provided prior to admission. If your guide dog’s vaccinations are due during your stay at McDowell, you will be expected to provide an updated record to the Consumer Services Coordinator.

Please help educate other consumers and staff on the best practices that work for both you and your guide dog. You will be living in very close quarters with people who may not be accustomed to being around a dog, and may need assistance in understanding appropriate guide dog etiquette.

You will be expected to keep your guide dog with you at all times and to keep the guide dog on a leash or harness any time it is out of your room. Your guide dog should not be left in the care of other consumers or staff.

You are responsible for the health, care and cleanliness of your guide dog. Your guide dog must be brushed regularly, odor free and free of fleas/ticks. Flea treatment, brushing and grooming are to be done outside. Dogs are to be bathed off campus. A list of self-service and grooming stores is available. The list also includes local veterinary offices in case your guide dog needs medical attention. If your guide dog becomes ill, there is a crate available as a temporary site until you can get your guide dog to a veterinary office.

The guide dog relief area is located at the east end of the dormitory area; you will be shown this area soon after you arrive. You are responsible to pick up after your guide dog. There are trash receptacles available near the dog relief area. You are expected to have all food and supplies for your guide dog.

Guide Dogs must behave in a non-aggressive manner at all times (no jumping, growling, or snapping) and they must not be disruptive (no barking, whining or destruction of property) in the classrooms or building.

In the event that a guide dog’s behavior poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others, the owner will be asked to remove the guide dog from the McDowell Center.

The guide dog will not be allowed back on the premises without documentation from the qualified training school or behaviorist that the guide dog has been re-evaluated and is able to work safely in such a setting. The owner is responsible for notifying the school and providing this documentation.

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**Guide Dog Etiquette**

A guide dog is a working dog. Don’t pet, talk to, reach toward, make eye contact, feed or distract the guide dog in any way. Speak only to the owner when greeting or giving directions to a guide dog team. Respect the space of the guide dog team. If a guide dog is in an aisle or an area where others need access, never try to move, crowd or step over the guide dog. Explain to the owner the situation and let the owner reposition the guide dog as needed.