

Service Animals in Seattle

A SERVICE ANIMAL...

Does Work or Performs Tasks or Provides Medically Necessary Support for a Person with a Disability

In Seattle, a service animal includes therapy, emotional support, and companion animals and is not limited to dogs and miniature horses.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Service Animal Owners

must have a disability-related need for a service animal. If that need is unclear, you may be required to show proof for housing and employment - not in public places. "No pet" policies do not apply to service animals.

You MUST:

- control your service animal
- be responsible for any damage your service animal causes
- license and vaccinate your animal
- provide food, water, and a place for your service animal to use the toilet



Service Animals

In public spaces

Business owners CAN ask:

Is this a service animal?

Does the animal perform a task or work, or is it medically necessary for your disability?

Food Businesses:

Where food is sold, prepared, or served, such as grocery stores, restaurants, and bars, state law limits service animals to dogs and miniature horses.

Healthcare Businesses:

Hospitals, doctors' offices, and healthcare businesses may restrict service animals' access to some areas for health and safety reasons.



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In housing

Housing providers CAN:

- ask you for proof of a disability-related need from a provider like a doctor
- require service animals to adhere to lease rules

Housing providers CANNOT:

- charge pet deposits or pet rent
- restrict breeds of dogs

In the workplace

Employers CAN:

- ask you for proof of a disability-related need for your service animal from a provider like a doctor
- refuse to allow your service animal if there is an immediate or foreseeable risk of danger to people or property

Employers CANNOT:

- refuse to allow your service animal in the workplace if you have a disability-related need
- refuse to allow your service animal because someone is afraid of animals

Know Your Rights



Seattle Office for Civil Rights

www.seattle.gov/civilrights

discrimination@seattle.gov

206-684-4500; TTY: 206-684-4503

Reasonable accommodations and language services available.



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