

Service Animal Fact Sheet



WHAT IS A SERVICE ANIMAL?

Under the ADA, a service animal is defined as a dog that has been trained to do work or perform a task for an individual with a disability that is directly related to the person's disability.



DOES THE ANIMAL HAVE TO WEAR A VEST OR IDENTIFYING HARNESS?

No. Under the ADA service animals are not required to wear a vest, ID tag or harness.



WHAT QUESTIONS CAN YOU ASK TO DETERMINE?

(1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability? and (2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform? Staff are not allowed to request any documentation for the dog, require that the dog demonstrate its task, or inquire about the nature of the person's disability



IS A DOG THAT HELPS CALM ANXIETY A SERVICE ANIMAL?

It depends. The ADA makes a distinction between psychiatric service animals and emotional support animals. If the dog has been trained to sense that an anxiety attack is about to happen and take a specific action to help avoid the attack or lessen its impact, that would qualify as a service animal. However, if the dog's mere presence provides comfort, that would not be considered a service animal under the ADA.



CAN A SERVICE ANIMAL EVER ASKED TO BE REMOVED?

Yes, if the dog is out of control and the handler does not take effective action or the dog is not housebroken. In these circumstances, the entity must offer the person with a disability the opportunity to obtain good or services without the animals presence.



ARE DOGS THE ONLY SERVICE ANIMAL?

No, dogs and miniature horses can be service animals.