

Scarefest 2023 Service Animal Policy Quick Facts

What is a service dog?

- A dog that is task trained to aid a person with a disability.
 - These disabilities could be diabetes, blindness, mobility issues, PTSD, autism, heart conditions, seizures, and many others.
- There is no federally recognized service dog registry or certification. No documentation is required for a person to have a service dog.

Service dog vs. Emotional support animal

- A service dog is not an emotional support animal, though they can be task trained to aid people with emotional disorders.
- A service dog is trained, either by a professional or an individual to do tasks that aid the disabled individual.
- An emotional support animal is not trained and does not perform designated tasks.
- A service dog is allowed anywhere patrons are allowed, even when pets are not allowed.
- An emotional support animal is only allowed where pets are allowed.

How to identify a service dog

- The ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) does not require service dogs to wear anything that identifies them as a service dog.
- Service dogs are not required to be leashed or tethered, as long as they are under the control of their handler.
- Service dogs should not interrupt the public (barking, wandering away from their handler, urinating, or defecating).

What to do if you see a service dog

- Do not ask to pet.
- Do not ask about a person's disability.
- You may not request any documentation of service dog status, because no such documentation exists.
- If you are unsure if a dog is a service dog, you can ask 2 questions,
 - (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. (ada.gov)
 - Phrasing is important here. Only ask these questions exactly as written.

What to do if a dog is misbehaving

- Whether or not a dog is a service dog, they can be asked to leave if:
 - (1) the dog is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it or (2) the dog is not housebroken. (ada.gov)
 - The handler may be permitted to return without the dog.

All information comes from the official ADA website, which can be found at

<https://www.ada.gov/resources/service-animals-2010-requirements/>