

# WELCOME SERVICE ANIMALS



The only animals allowed in a food service establishment are service animals. The definition of a service animal, under the ADA, is “a dog or miniature horse that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability.” This means that service animals are working animals that have been trained to perform a specific task. They are not pets. An animal that provides emotional comfort is not considered a service animal as they do not perform a specific task. As of January 2019, it is a civil misdemeanor to intentionally misrepresent a pet as a service animal. This misdemeanor can result in a \$500 fine.

A service animal is only allowed to be in areas where the public is allowed to go. It is not allowed to go into a kitchen or food storage area. They must be kept in control by their owners. They can be kept under control by a leash or harness, unless that would keep the animal from performing the task it is needed to do. If that is the case, they would need to be controlled by voice or signal controls.

**Sorry, no pets allowed**

Service animals are not required to be certified or trained in a specific way. They are also not required to wear identification. It might be hard to identify a service animal. Under the ADA, you are only allowed to ask 2 questions to help you identify a service animal:

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

You cannot ask someone about their disability or ask that the animal demonstrate how they help that person. You cannot ask to see medical documents.

For more information, go to the ADA website for “frequently asked questions” on service animals:  
[http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service\\_animal\\_qa.html](http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html)

This material is adapted from the Snohomish Health District, [www.snohd.org](http://www.snohd.org).

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