

# S E R V I C E A N I M A L S



Under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), state and local governments, businesses, and nonprofit organizations that serve the public generally must allow service animals to accompany people with disabilities in places of public accommodation.

## WHAT IS A SERVICE ANIMAL

A service animal is defined as a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. The task(s) performed by the dog must be directly related to the person's disability.

## QUESTIONS THAT YOU ARE ALLOWED TO ASK

### **1. Is this service animal required because of a disability?**

If the answer is no, the service animal is not required because of a disability, the animal must be removed from the facility.

### **2. What type of work does the service animal perform?**

An emotional support or comfort support dog is not considered an approved service animal as underlined in the Health & Safety Code Chapter 437, and must be removed from the facility.

## IMPORTANT THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Service animals must be under the control of the owner at all times.

Service animals are not required to wear identification tags or vests.

Service animals are not allowed in any food preparation areas.

Food Establishment operators can request the removal of a service animal if the operator feels the animal is creating an disturbance.

Penalties for and damages resulting from discrimination, and penalties for improper use of service animals can be found in the Texas State Service Dog Laws Title 8, Sections 121.004 and 121.006.

Service animals in training must be accompanied by an approved trainer.