

COLORADO SERVICE ANIMAL LAWS

- Under federal law, service animals are protected under Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Service animals in training are not protected by the ADA, however, they are protected under Colorado Revised Statute 24-34-803.
- Under Colorado state law, it is a crime to knowingly misrepresent an animal as a service animal. For example, indicating a non-service animal is a service animal to bring it into a public business that generally would not allow animals on the premises is a crime.
- Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute 24-34-803, the mere presence of a service animal in a place of public accommodation (such as a restaurant) shall not be grounds for any violation of a sanitary standard, rule or regulation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about Colorado law concerning service and companion/assistance animals, visit www.Colorado.gov.

SERVICE AND COMPANION/ ASSISTANCE ANIMALS

A Guide to Service and Companion/Assistance Animals for Businesses and Places of Public Accomodation.



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SERVICE ANIMAL QUICK FACTS

- Service animals, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), are either trained canines or miniature horses ONLY. There are no specific requirements about height and weight of canines, however, such specifications exist for miniature horses.
- Service animals are individually trained to perform a task for the benefit of an individual with a disability.
- Service animals are not required to be listed on a registry, possess paperwork declaring the animal as a service animal or wear a service animal vest.
- Service animals are working animals, not pets. They should not be pet, fed or instructed to perform tasks by individuals other than their handler.
- Service animals must always be under the handler's control. They must have a harness, leash or other tether unless the handler's disability prohibits their use or if the animal's tasks would be directly hindered by such equipment.
- Businesses may ask a handler to remove their service animal if the animal is disruptive, aggressive or not housebroken.
- It is the responsibility of the handler, not businesses, to provide care and control for a service animal.

WHAT IS A SERVICE ANIMAL?

A service animal is categorized as such because it is tasked with performing services directly related to a person's disability. *A person's disability may not always be visible.*

- **Businesses and public entities are only legally allowed to ask two questions to inquire about a service animal:**
 1. Is the dog (or miniature horse) a service animal required because of disability?
 2. What work or task has the dog (or miniature horse) been trained to perform?

* *Exception: These questions may not be asked when it is obvious what service the animal provides.*
- **Businesses and public entities are not permitted to require:**
 - An individual to specify their disability
 - The animal to demonstrate the task it has been trained to perform
 - Documentation proving the animal is on a registry or has been professionally trained

SERVICE ANIMAL TASKS

Services rendered by the animal may include, but are not limited to, the following:

For individuals with visible disabilities:

- Picking up or retrieving objects
- Guiding an individual who is blind or visually impaired
- Providing balance and/or physical support

For individuals with hidden/invisible disabilities:

- Aiding an individual who has hearing loss
- Performing various tasks during a seizure
- Interrupting impulsive behaviors for someone

COMPANION/ASSISTANCE ANIMALS ARE NOT SERVICE ANIMALS

- An animal that primarily provides emotional support, comfort and/or companionship for a person with a disability is commonly referred to as a companion or assistance animal.
- Companion or assistance animals do not qualify as service animals and are not protected under the ADA, however, they are protected under federal and state housing laws.
- Businesses and other public entities are not required to allow companion or assistance animals into their businesses.