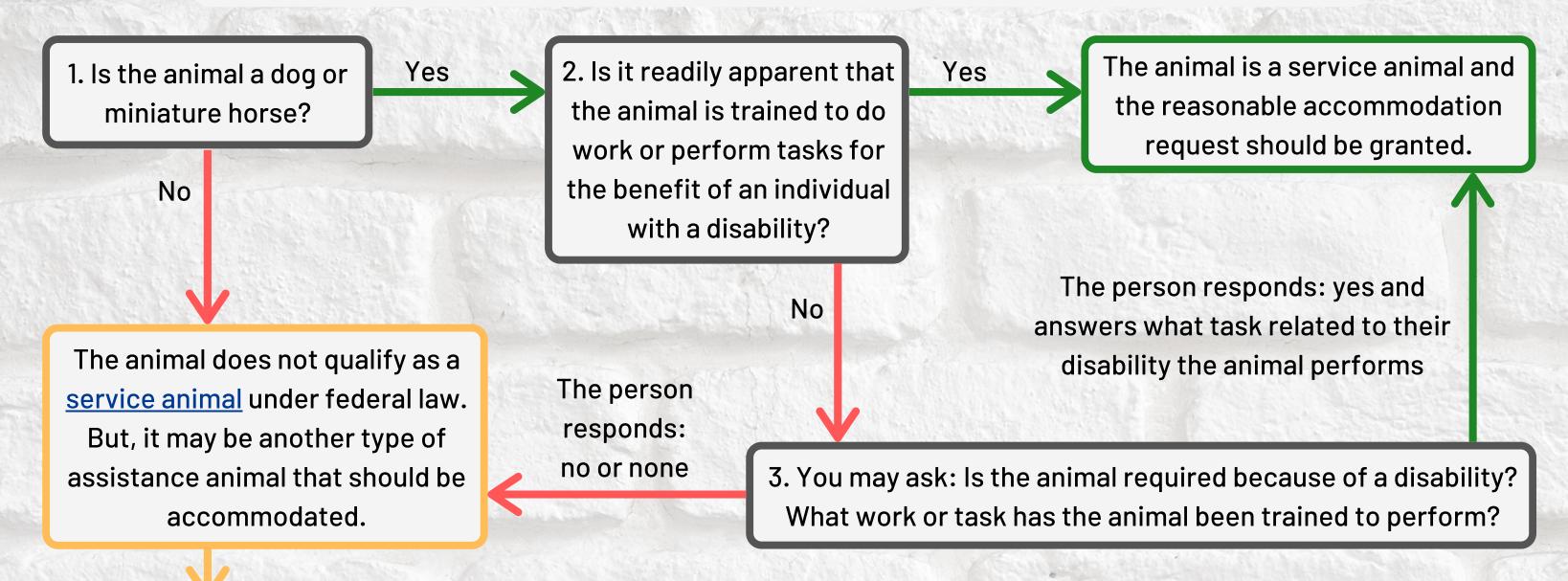
Assessing a Person's Request to Have an Animal as a Reasonable Accommodation Under the Fair Housing Act

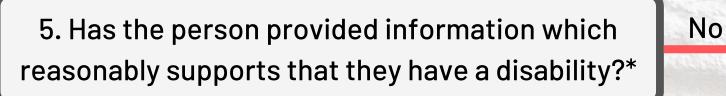
According to 2020 HUD Guidance



4. Does the person requesting the accommodation have an observable disability or does the housing provider (or agent acting for the provider) already have information indicating that the individual has a disability?

No

Yes



The housing provider must give the individual a reasonable opportunity to provide the necessary information. If the information is not provided, the provider is not required to approve the request. The housing provider is encouraged to direct the requester to the <u>Guidance on Documenting an Individual's</u> <u>Need for Assistance Animals in Housing</u>.

6. Has the person provided information which reasonably supports that the animal provides assistance and/or emotional support with respect to the individual's disability?**

No

Yes

Yes

Yes

The individual has the burden of demonstrating a <u>disability-related need for that specific animal</u> <u>or that specific type of animal</u>. The individual is encouraged to submit documentation from a health care professional confirming that need.

The animal qualifies as an assistance animal and the reasonable accommodation request should be granted.

7. Is the animal commonly kept in households?



You can report an instance of housing discrimination to the <u>Equal Rights Center</u> by calling 202-234-3062 or emailing info@equalrightscenter.org. You can also file a complaint directly with HUD on their <u>website</u>.

* Information about an individual's disability may include: determination of disability by a government agency, disability benefits, a housing voucher based on the individual's disability, or a determination by a health care professional.**

No

** Many health care professionals provide services over the internet. Documentation from the internet alone may not be sufficiently reliable. One example of reliable documentation is a note from a person's health care professional that confirms the person's disability and/or need for an animal in connection to the disability.

This publication is not legal advice and should not be construed as such.