

# NAVIGATING LIFE WITH YOUR SERVICE OR ASSISTANCE ANIMAL

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Fair Housing Act (FHA) provide protections and guidance for people with disabilities who use service or assistance animals.



## ADA

## FHA



The ADA defines a service animal as any dog or miniature horse that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability.

The FHA defines an assistance animal as any animal that works, assists, or performs tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability or provides emotional support to alleviate symptoms of a person's disability.



### HOUSING

In a housing complex, the ADA covers the right of service animals to enter leasing offices and other public use areas.

Under the FHA, assistance animals are allowed in housing units and common areas.

For FHA, if the housing complex or building has a restriction on pets, the owner may submit a reasonable accommodation request to have their assistance animal exempt from those restrictions. The request should include documentation verifying the disability (if it's not already known or obvious) and should explain how the assistance animal helps with symptoms of the disability.



### PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Under the ADA, service animals are allowed into any public accommodations, such as restaurants, stores, hospitals, and schools.

The presence of the service animal in a public facility does not require any advance notice, the animal must only be housebroken and under the owner's control.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Service and assistance animals under these laws do not require certification. They also don't have to wear vests or carry any sort of identification.

Leashes or harnesses aren't necessary either. Service animals must simply be under the control of their human owner.