

Service Animals at Pools

Persons with disabilities may not be denied access to pools including swimming/bathing with their service animals. Below is listed some additional information concerning service animals.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

The ADA defines a service animal as any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability. If they meet this definition, animals are considered service animals under the ADA regardless of whether they have been licensed or certified by a state or local government.

Service animals perform some of the functions and tasks that the individual with a disability cannot perform for him or herself. Guide dogs are one type of service animal, used by some individuals who are blind. This is the type of service animal with which most people are familiar. But there are service animals that assist persons with other kinds of disabilities in their day-to-day activities. Some examples include:

- _ Alerting persons with hearing impairments to sounds.
- _ Pulling wheelchairs or carrying and picking up things for persons with mobility impairments.
- _ Assisting persons with mobility impairments with balance.
- _ “seizure response dogs”, or “seizure alert dogs”, involves the training of dogs to work with individuals who have epilepsy or any of a variety of other seizure disorders. Alert/Response dogs are also trained to work with individuals who have psychological/psychiatric disabilities.
- _ Invisible disabilities such as diabetes, post traumatic stress syndrome, autism

The service animal must be permitted to accompany the individual with a disability to all areas of the facility where customers are normally allowed to go. An individual with a service animal may not be segregated from other customers.

You **may not ask** questions about the person's disability. You **may not ask** to be shown certification or a special ID card as proof of the animal's training. You may not ask a guest with a service animal to use a specific entrance, exit or area of the business

Although public identification is not required, most dogs wear some form of visible identification to represent them as Assistance Dogs. You may see equipment such as a tag, vest, coat, harness, or backpack. Dogs can be mixed or purebred and of any size.

You may not charge a fee for the service animal.



U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
Disability Rights Section

Q: My county health department has told me that only a guide dog has to be admitted. If I follow those regulations, am I violating the ADA?

A: Yes, if you refuse to admit any other type of service animal on the basis of local health department regulations or other state or local laws. The ADA provides greater protection for individuals with disabilities and so it takes priority over the local or state laws or regulations.

A service animal is not a pet.

Additional information can be obtained: www.ada.gov