

Service Animals in Food Service Establishments



What is a service animal? A guide dog, signal dog or other animal (miniature horse) that is trained to aid an individual with a disability. A service animal is not a pet; it is a working animal.

Only service animals can be present in areas that are not used for food preparation, and that are open for customers (such as dining and sales areas). The service animal may be excluded if a health or safety hazard will result from their presence. For a food service employee that needs a service animal, the DuPage County Health Department will work with the facility to accommodate that employee and ensure food safety measures are being implemented.



Questions that can be asked about a service animal?

- *Is the service animal required because of a disability?*
- *What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?*

Pets and emotional support animals are allowed in common or dining areas of care facilities (such as nursing home, group homes, assisted living, or residential care) as long as the food equipment is protected and dining areas are cleaned in between meal services.



Pets may be allowed in patio areas of food facilities at management's discretion.



For questions specific to the American's with Disabilities Act, call 1-800-514-0301. Helpful links: FDA 2013 Food Code Annex 3:

<https://www.fda.gov/downloads/Food/GuidanceRegulation/RetailFoodProtection/FoodCode/UCM374510.pdf>

Americans with Disabilities Act: https://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm 4/2018