

Service Animal Policy—approved by the Board of Directors at the July 11, 2020 quarterly meeting

The SCA abides by all national, state, and local regulations regarding service animals.

For United States entities:

Under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), emotional support, therapy, comfort, or companion animals are not considered service animals. The only service animals permitted under law are dogs and miniature horses, and people with disabilities accompanied by service animals generally must be allowed the same access as those without service animals. Further, per the ADA, only two questions may be asked of the handler of a service animal:

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

These questions may only be asked if it is not readily apparent what service the animal is performing. Every endeavor should be made to ensure these questions are asked only once, and only by the event steward or their designee (usually the head of gate). No one may ask what the disability is, nor can anyone demand to see the animal perform the task. The answers to these two questions may be noted.

Handlers of service animals must abide by all state and local vaccination and travel requirements for their animals.

Service animals must always remain under the control of their handler and must be housebroken. A handler assumes all liability for their animals. Dogs must remain on leash unless their duties demand that they be off-leash, either for specific tasks or for the handler's disability. The dog must still be under control of the handler.

If a service animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it, the event steward or local (or Kingdom) seneschal may request that the animal be removed from the premises. This removal is to be based on the evaluation of whether the animal is under control, appropriately behaved for public accommodation, and not an evaluation of whether the animal is a service animal. The handler must be allowed back onto the premises after making arrangements for their animal. Removals from site or refusals of entry should be documented carefully with reasoning for why access was denied per SCA rules for removing someone from site.

Additional points:

- Service animals are not required to wear identification, including medallions or other gear.
- No additional fees may be levied against the handler of a service animal.
- No paperwork may be required from handlers on their service animal.
- No mandatory pre-registration of service animals is allowed.