



Northeast Tri County Health District Environmental Health Division

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS REGARDING SERVICE ANIMALS

- Service animals are defined ONLY as a dog or miniature horse.
- Emotional support or therapy dogs are not considered service animals by the ADA and are not allowed in food establishments.
- Food establishments **may not** allow pets on food establishment property including *patios and outdoor seating areas*.
- Food establishments may not inquire as to the extent of a person's disability or make inquiries if it is readily apparent that an animal is trained to work, i.e. a dog observed to be guiding a person who is blind or with low vision, dog pulling a person's wheelchair, etc.
- If the handler answers that the animal is a therapy or emotional support animal, that it helps with depression or anxiety, etc. this would indicate that the animal is not trained to provide a service and is not a service animal.
- If the handler answers that the animal is trained to guide them, help with balance or mobility, alert them to a condition, pick up or carry items, remind them to take their medication, stabilize them during a seizure, or do some other task that the person is unable to do for themselves, then the animal is a trained service animal and **must be allowed**.

House Bill 2822, effective January 2019, deems misrepresenting a pet as a service animal in the state of Washington as a civil infraction that carries a fine of up to \$500.

A food establishment can ask two questions:

The first question must be:

Is the animal required because of a disability?

If the answer is no, the animal **must be excluded**. If the answer is yes, proceed to the next question.

The second question must be:

What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

- If the handler refuses to answer, the animal **must be excluded**.
- If the handler discloses their disability but refuses to disclose what the animal is trained to do, the animal **must be excluded**.

Information provided in this document may be found at:

www.waservicedog.org

Stevens County	Pend Oreille County	Ferry County
240 E. Dominion Colville, WA 99114 Phone: (509)684-2262 Option 2 Fax: (509)684-8506	605 Highway 20 Newport, WA 99156 Phone: (509)447-3131 Fax: (509)447-5644	PO Box 584/ 147 N. Clark, Ste 1 Republic, WA 99166 Phone: (509)775-3111 Fax: (509)775-2858
Website: www.netchd.org		Email : EHMAIL@NETCHD.ORG