

SERVICE ANIMAL AND PET POLICY

SERVICE ANIMALS ARE WELCOME!

- Only service animals, as stipulated by the Department of Justice, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), are authorized within our facilities.
- Service animal is defined as a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. The ADA does not restrict the type of dog breeds that can be service animals.
- Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack or performing other duties.
- Under South Carolina State Law, every person who is a trainer of a service animal, while engaged in the training of a service animal, has the same rights and privileges as people with a disability.

SERVICE ANIMALS ARE WORKING ANIMALS, NOT PETS.

- To comply with Health Department regulations, pets are not permitted in the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.
- The work or task a service animal has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability.
- Emotional support, stress, therapy, comfort or companion animals are not considered service animals under the ADA.
- Under the ADA, state and local government, businesses and nonprofit organizations that serve the public generally must allow service animals to accompany people with disabilities in all areas of the facility where the public is normally allowed to go.
- Questions that can be asked to determine if a dog is a service animal.
 - Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?
 - What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?

SERVICE ANIMALS MUST BE ON A LEASH OR IN A HARNESS.

- Service animals must be under the control of the handler and must be housebroken. Handlers are responsible for the behavior and cleanliness of their service animal and are liable for any damage done to the premises or facility by the dog.
- Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the individual's disability prevents using these devices. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal or other effective controls.