

New Mexico State Capitol Service Animal Policy

Service animals are defined as dogs or miniature horses that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.

A service animal may accompany that service animal's handler in any area where the public is allowed.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), emotional support animals are not considered to be service animals and do not have the same protections as service animals.

Before allowing admittance of a service animal, security and staff may ask:

1. if the animal is required because of a disability; and
2. what work or task the animal has been trained to perform.

No documentation, vest or other proof is required.

A service animal must be under the control of its handler. Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed or tethered, unless the individual's disability prevents using these devices or these devices interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of tasks. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal or other effective controls.

Please help us ensure an enjoyable visit for you and others by making sure that your service animal behaves in accordance with the law. Security and staff reserve the right to have a service animal removed from the State Capitol if the service animal:

1. engages in excessive or aggressive barking, growling or whining;
2. approaches or jumps on people or other service animals; or
3. is not housebroken.

Miniature horses must:

1. meet the ADA requirements for size and weight;
2. not pose a significant risk for the safety of the handler or others; and
3. be housebroken.

For more information about service animals, please see:

1. the [Governor's Commission on Disability's service animal policy](#); and
2. the web page of the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice on [ADA Requirements: Service Animals](#).