

State Preservation Board

Capitol Service Animals Policy

September 2023

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to address the use of service animals for individuals with disabilities inside the public areas of the Capitol, Capitol Extension, and on the Capitol Grounds. Information provided herein describes where service animals are authorized, conditions to their use, and building entry procedures.

Service animals are allowed, emotional support animals are NOT allowed in the Capitol.

A service animal does not need a particular apparatus or have to have paperwork. Likewise, a harness with words to that affect does not make any animal a service animal.

Building Entry Procedure

A service animal may enter with the Capitol at any of the four building entrances. DPS shall be responsible for determining the extent and method of scanning/searching each animal.

If it is not obvious what service an animal provides, screeners may ask two questions:

- (1) whether the service animal is required because of the person's disability, and
- (2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform

Requirements Inside Buildings

- 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.
- Service animals must be house broken.
- Service animals must be under control at all times. If the animal is behaving inappropriately and the individual is not able to control it, the owner will be asked to remove the animal from the premises.
- The SPB is not responsible for the care and supervision of a service animal.
- The SPB may charge an individual for damage caused by his or her service animal.

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Permitted Areas Of Use

Individuals with disabilities can bring their service animals into all public areas of the Capitol, Capitol Extension, and Capitol Grounds.

- A person who uses a service animal with a harness or leash of the type commonly used by persons with disabilities who use trained animals to represent that their animal is a specially trained service animal when training has not in fact been provided is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction must be punished by:
 - a fine of not more than \$1,000; and
 - 30 hours of community service to be performed for a governmental entity or nonprofit organization that primarily serves persons with disabilities, or for another entity or organization at the discretion of the court, to be completed in one year.