



## Summit Animal Policy

### When animals are welcome and when they're not

We love furry companions. However, for security and health reasons, the only animals allowed in Summit facilities (where the general public is permitted) are:

1. **Service animals.** In Spokane counties, these are dogs or miniature horses trained to perform tasks for the benefit of people with physical or mental disabilities, such as guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, alerting and protecting people prone to seizures, or other tasks directly related to disability.

Animals whose mere presence provides emotional support, well-being, comfort or companionship do not qualify as service animals and are not permitted in our facilities.

### Service animals: What you can expect from Summit

Staff members may ask only two questions if the animal's service tasks are not obvious. These questions may not be asked if the dog or miniature horse is observed guiding a person who is blind, pulling a person's wheelchair, or providing stability/balance to a person with an observable mobility disability. The questions are:

1. **Is the animal required because of a disability?**
2. **What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?**

If the handler answers that the animal is trained to guide him or her, help with balance or mobility, provide an alert to a condition, pick up or carry items, provide reminders to take medication, get help, offer stability during a seizure, redirect attention from a trigger, or do a task/service that the person is unable to do, then the animal is a trained service animal and is allowed on the premises. The work or task a dog or miniature horse has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability.

However, if the animal's handler refuses to answer, the animal can be excluded.

Other reasons an animal may be excluded:

- If the handler discloses their disability but refuses to disclose what the animal is trained to do
- If the handler provides documentation that the animal is a service animal-but neither the documentation or handler can explain what the animal is trained to do
- If the handler answers that the animal can sit, stay, lie down, come when called, or do something related to obedience and good manners, but does not show evidence of training to provide services for disability
- If the handler answers that the animal makes them calm down or feel better, or eases their depression (or something similar), but is not trained to do a task or provide a service

Call your immediate supervisor if assistance is needed.



Downtown Spokane: 509.455.6002  
Spokane Valley: 509.444.5678  
Northside: 509.960.7340  
[www.summitrehab.org](http://www.summitrehab.org)

### **What Summit requires of owners of service animals**

- As a courtesy, please notify caregivers that you have a service animal.
- Be aware that you may be asked if the animal is required because of a disability and/or what task the animal has been trained to do.
- Provide direct and continuous supervision of the animal at all times. To remain in the Health care environment, the animal must:
  1. Be well controlled, either by leash, harness, carrier or other effective means
  2. Be limited to areas where patients or visitors would normally be allowed
  3. Be cared for by the owner or handler, or by an accompanying family member or friend who will provide for the animal's feeding, watering and elimination needs
  4. Be housebroken and vaccinated in accordance with state laws
- A service animal may be removed from the premises if it:
  1. Makes a mess on the floor or anywhere or jumps onto anything
  2. Bites or jumps on another person
  3. Wanders away from its owner
  4. Exhibits growling, barking, biting, snapping or other aggressive behavior
  5. Comes in contact with any patients' non-intact skin (surgical site, drainage tubes, wounds)
- 6. Reasonably seems to be a source of infections due to appearance, coughing, or other indication of infection or disease



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### What the law requires

As directed by federal, Washington state and local laws organizations and businesses open to the public must allow persons with disabilities to bring their service animals to bring their service animals into areas of the facility where the general public is normally allowed.

### Examples of a service animal

A service animal may be a guide dog, a signal dog or miniature horse trained to provide assistance to an individual who has a disability. Service animals are working animals, not pets.

There is no requirement to produce certification papers, use a harness or special collar, or present any form of identification or license. The person does not have to show proof of disability.