



Service Animals at Sponsored Events

This policy refers to all FDDC hosted or paid for events through the FDDC or its grantees. This includes but is not limited to:

- Council meetings
- Committee meetings
- Grantee funded meetings (i.e., Florida SAND, Partners in Policy Making)

This policy refers to persons/positions as follows:

- FDDC Council members
- FDDC Resource members
- Person with an intellectual/developmental disability
- Personal care attendants
- Family members

No animals will be allowed at FDDC events unless they meet the definition of service animals under the American with Disabilities Act and Florida Statute 413.08 and are solely for the service of the person with the disability. Persons with disability are encouraged to notify FDDC prior to the event if they may be bringing a service animal, to help the FDDC prepare any necessary accommodations for the individual. Animals associated with personal care attendants and family members will not be allowed in hotel rooms, the meeting premises, and/or social gatherings related to the event. The service animal handler shall be responsible for maintaining control over the service animal and providing care, food and supervision. The service animal handler is responsible for any damages caused by the service animal.

A Service Animal is specifically described in the Americans with Disabilities Act and section 413.08, Florida Statutes, as dogs or miniature horse that are trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. The work done or tasks performed must be directly related to the individual's disability. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and 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, retrieving objects, alerting an individual to the presence of allergens, helping an individual with a psychiatric or neurological disability by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors, calming an individual with posttraumatic stress disorder during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets.

Florida statute 413.08 further explains the rights and responsibilities of an individual with a disability; use of a service animal; prohibited discrimination in public employment, public accommodations, and housing accommodations; penalties.

Comfort Animal is a term that is often interchanged with Emotional Support Animal. Comfort animals, companion animals, and crime-deterrent animals are not covered under the ADA or Florida statute and do not qualify under the law as service animals. More specifically, provision by an animal of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship does not constitute work or tasks for purposes of the law. The owners of Comfort Animals or Emotional Support Animals do not have the public access rights that are granted to Service Animals.

Only the person with the disability will be granted access with the service animal at all events and related social gatherings. No other animals will be allowed. This is to ensure the protection of the service animal, their owner, staff and the public. Please see graph for differentiation between a service dog and a comfort dog. Additionally, any service animal may be removed from an FDDC event if the service animal becomes out of control and the service animal's handler cannot effectively control the service animal.

		
	SERVICE ANIMAL	EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL
✓	SPECIALLY TRAINED (TASK-TRAINED)	✗
✓	ALLOWED BY FEDERAL LAW (AIR CARRIER ACCESS ACT) TO ACCOMPANY THE HANDLER ON FLIGHTS	✓
✓	ALLOWED BY FEDERAL LAW TO ACCOMPANY HANDLER IN RESTAURANTS, STORES, MOVIE, THEATRES, ETC.	✗
✓	ALLOWED BY FEDERAL LAW TO STAY WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE DISABLED IN APARTMENTS THAT HAVE "NO PET" POLICIES	✓
✓	TRAINED TO ASSIST JUST ONE PERSON	✗
✗	PROVIDE EMOTIONAL COMFORT TO MORE THAN ONE PERSON	✓
✗	MUST BE CERTIFIED OR REGISTERED	✗

Adopted September 2017