



Policy Regarding the Admission of Service Animals

The Fort Worth Museum of Science and History abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and allows service animals, that is, animals trained to perform specific tasks for an individual with a disability, into all the public areas of the Museum.

Dogs and miniature horses are the only animals recognized as service animals by federal and state law. Staff may only ask two questions of the animal's owner if his or her disability is not obvious: 1) Is the animal a service animal required because of a disability? and 2) What work or task has the animal been trained to perform? The staff is not allowed to ask about the specifics of the owner's disability or request any documentation or proof of either the owner's disability or animal's abilities.

Miniature horses are allowed into the Museum as service animals under the ADA providing they meet 4 specific requirements: 1) the miniature horse is housebroken; (2) the miniature horse is under the owner's control; (3) the facility can accommodate the miniature horse's type, size and weight; and (4) the miniature horse's presence will not compromise legitimate safety requirements necessary for safe operation of the facility.

Behavior of Service Animals

A service animal is required to be under control at all times by its handler, although a leash is not required. An out of control or disruptive animal may be required to leave the Museum if the handler is unable to re-establish control over the animal or stop the disruptive behavior. Out of control behaviors include consistent barking, lunging or being aggressive towards people, interfering with collections objects, stealing food or urinating or defecating on the premises.

If the animal's behavior warrants its removal from the Museum, the animal's handler can stay in the Museum without the animal.

Admission of Comfort Animals

Comfort animals, therapy animals, companion animals and emotional support animals are not classified as service animals by the ADA and therefore not allowed into the Museum.