

POLICY ON SERVICE ANIMALS

PURPOSE

Service animals must be allowed to accompany their owners anywhere within the clinic premises wherever the admission of the general public and clients is allowed. A service animal is not a pet: it must be considered an extension of its owner, who suffers a disability that the service animal is trained to manage. Service animals help their owners move safely and independently, with freedom and dignity. Salus Clinic and all its employees have the necessary sensibility and awareness to provide healthcare access to patients with disabilities, which is why we have adopted this policy.

DEFINITIONS

Emotional support animal: an animal that provides comfort or company (dogs, cats, hamsters, birds) and is not considered as a service animal under the Americans with Disabilities Act and other federal laws. These animals are not trained to cover the needs of a person with disabilities.

Service animal: any animal, usually a dog, that has been trained to work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including physical, mental, sensory, intellectual, or other disabilities. Tasks performed may include serving as guides for individuals who are blind, pulling a wheelchair, retrieving items that have fallen down, alerting an individual to a sound, reminding an individual to take a medication, pushing doors, and interrupting behaviors like self-injury or hand-flapping, among others. Under ADA, only dogs and miniature horses are recognized as service animals.

Therapy animal: an animal that has been trained to provide company and solace to patients in diverse health scenarios. Their training is not as extensive and focused as that of service animals. These animals are not recognized by the ADA either.
