

# Service Animal Policy

## Purpose

The City of Cannon Beach recognizes that service or assistance animals perform many different tasks for individuals with disabilities. Today, services or assistance animals go far beyond the Seeing Eye dog in a harness and include the performance of many tasks for individuals with physical disabilities such as pushing or pulling a wheel chair, fetching or carrying objects, opening and closing doors, or alerting hearing-impaired individuals to specific sounds.

Animals have long been recognized in ameliorating the effects of mental or emotional disabilities. Today, many different kinds of animals perform various tasks for individuals with mental or emotional disabilities, from simple emotional support to retrieving medications and beverages with which to swallow the medication to helping individuals suffering medication side effects with their balance.

An individual with a disability who uses the services of an assistance animal may not have an obvious disability and the animal may not be one we would expect to be a service animal but the individual with the disability may have the same right to be accompanied by his or her animal as does the visually impaired individual with a seeing eye dog in a harness.

The basic characteristics of a service animal are that the animal (1) is individually trained to perform specific tasks (2) for an individual with a disability and (3) behaves appropriately in public places.

## **Reference**

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Oregon Revised Statute Section 346.610.

## **Policy**

It is the policy of the City of Cannon Beach in promoting equal access to its programs, services and activities, to allow individuals with disabilities who use service or assistance animals, full and equal access to City buildings and facilities.

If more information is needed, please contact ADA Coordinator Richard Mays, at (503) 436-8050 or TTY (503) 436-8097, or email at [mays@ci.cannon-beach.or.us](mailto:mays@ci.cannon-beach.or.us).

