

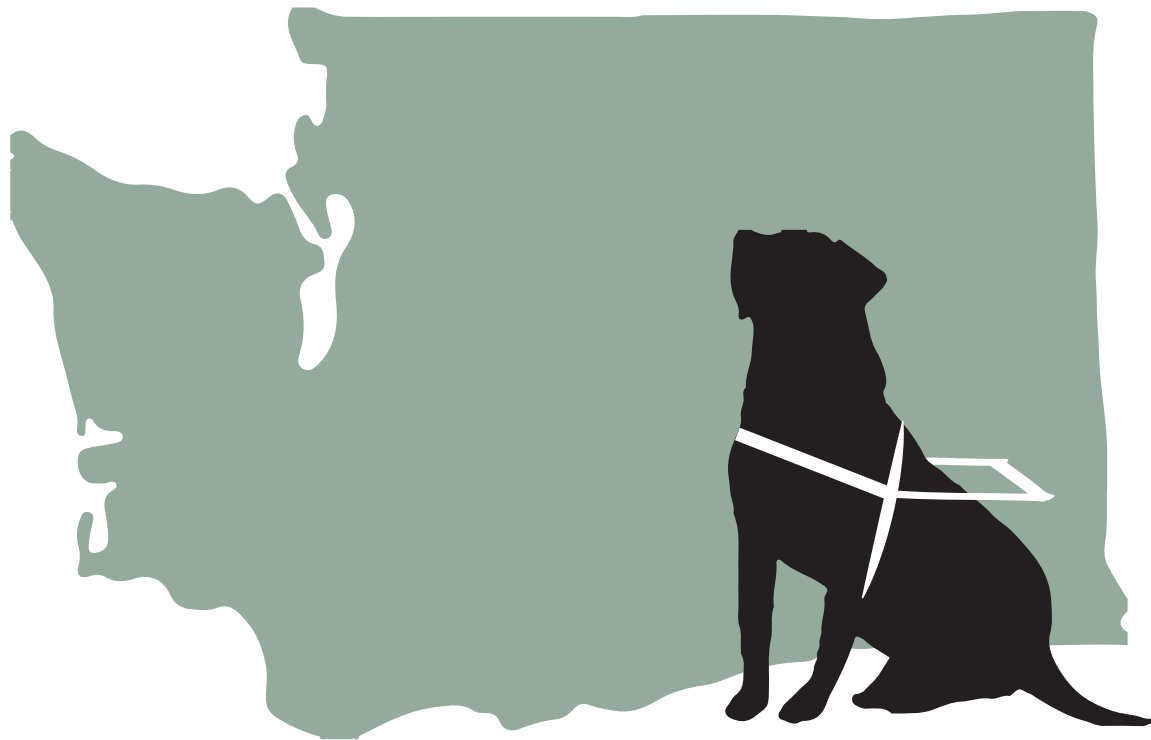
---

# SERVICE ANIMALS WELCOME

---

Under state and federal law, individuals with disabilities are allowed to bring service animals into places of public accommodation like businesses, government offices, and other areas open to the general public.

(Americans with Disabilities Act; RCW 49.60.215; RCW 49.60.218)



Service animals are always welcome, but other animals are prohibited by law in food establishments, and other businesses may decline to permit animals other than trained service animals.

(WAC 246-215-06570; RCW 49.60.215; RCW 49.60.218)



Washington State Attorney General's Office  
Wing Luke Civil Rights Unit  
[www.atgwa.gov/wing-luke-civil-rights-unit](http://www.atgwa.gov/wing-luke-civil-rights-unit)

---

# WHAT IS A SERVICE ANIMAL?

---

Service animals are trained working animals, not pets. A service animal is an animal that is trained for the purpose of assisting or accommodating a person with a disability.

A service animal is defined as a dog or miniature horse “that is trained for the purpose of assisting or accommodating a sensory, mental, or physical disability of a person with a disability.” (RCW 49.60.040; RCW 49.60.218)

Animals that provide emotional support, companionship, or other such therapy are not considered service animals under the law.

## RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

### OF BUSINESSES

- A business may not ask about a person’s disability or for medical documentation.
- A business may only ask:
  - ✓ If the animal is a service animal, and if yes;
  - ✓ What task the animal is trained to perform.
- A service animal can be excluded if its handler does not answer both questions.
- Businesses may ask that a service animal be removed in certain circumstances, such as if the animal is out of control, disruptive, or is not housebroken.

### OF SERVICE ANIMAL HANDLERS

- An owner of a service animal may be asked what task the service animal is trained to do.
- Owners must be able to effectively control their animal.
- Service animals are not required to wear harnesses or have any kind of certification.
- Service animals are allowed to accompany a disabled person into places of public accommodation, this includes food establishments, doctors’ offices, and other areas that fall within the categories outlined in ADA Regulations or RCW 49.60.

---

For additional information or to make a complaint about service animal discrimination, contact the Washington State Human Rights Commission: