

# Service Animal Agreement

## Service Animal definition:

The ADA Title II and III defines a service animal as any “**dog**” that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. This may include a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other disability. Comfort animals, emotional support animals, and therapy animals are **not** considered service animals under the ADA. Having a doctor's note stating that someone has a disability and needs an animal for emotional support **does not** make the animal a service animal and is not allowed within Orlando Science Center.

## Handler responsibilities:

Handlers are responsible for ensuring the animal is under control at all times. The animal must be leashed, tethered, or harnessed at all times. A handler may be asked to remove the animal if it is not under control. Care of the animal is solely the responsibility of the handler. This care includes:

- Proper disposal of animal waste.
- To refrain from taking the service animal into restricted areas
- To remove the service animal when a conflict or potential conflict may occur.

Owners may be held liable (and charged as applicable) for any damage, injury or death caused by the service animal to the grounds, him/herself, the animal or plant collection, employees, or visitors to the same extent as others without service animals are held responsible or charged.

Owners should also be aware that the nature of Zoo activities is such that service animals may be exposed to diseases of animals within the Zoo's collection, and this risk is assumed wholly by the owner when bringing the service animal on site. Service animals are not permitted in the Rain Forest. The animals in this area are sensitive and the mere presence of any dog presents a significant danger of undue stress and/or injury to the animals in the care of Life's Rain Forest. Service animals must be kept a minimum of 15 feet back from our animal collection, and a handler may be asked to remove the animal if it is causing a disruption to the OSC animal collection.

Florida state law requires that all dogs be vaccinated against rabies unless otherwise exempt by a veterinarian. If a licensed veterinarian has examined the animal and has certified in writing that at the time vaccination would endanger the animal's health because of its age, infirmity, disability, illness, or other medical considerations, the animal may be exempt. An exempt animal must be vaccinated against rabies as soon as its health permits. Individuals with service animals are not exempt from local animal control or public health requirements. OSC does not assume responsibility for providing water or outdoor service animal relief area.

