

Q&A Service Animals in NC Food Establishments

Are Service Animals allowed at Food Establishments?

Yes, they are allowed in all businesses including those that serve food.

What am I responsible for when Service Animal is present?

Only to treat the person the same as any other customer.

What questions can I ask a person with a Service Animal?

Is the animal a Service Animal? What has the animal been trained to do for the individual?

Is there any required identification for Service Animals?

No. A Service Animal may wear a vest, harness or display an ID, but this is not required.

What is the difference in a Service Animal and a therapy animal?

A Service Animal is trained to perform a specific task for an individual with a disability. A therapy animal or support animal provides comfort to an individual. Therapy animals are not the same as service animals and are not afforded the same privileges in public spaces.

I have a “No Pets Policy”. Do I still need to allow Service Animals?

Yes. Under ADA guidelines, a Service Animal is a working animal, not a pet.

***ADA limits Service Animals to dogs and miniature horses.**

ADA also recognizes animals in training to become Service Animals. The animal must wear a collar, leash, harness or cape that identifies it as a Service Animal in Training. For more information visit www.ADA.gov.



**NC FOOD CODE 6-501.115
Prohibiting Animals**

Chatham County Environmental Health

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www.chathamnc.org/publichealth

