

Board of Commissioners

Miles D. Kessinger, III
Chairman
Jeffrey A. Snyder
Vice Chairman
Angela Harding
Commissioner

Desiree B. Myers, *Chief Clerk*
Larry E. Coploff, *Solicitor*

Phone: (570) 893-4000
(800) 509-6697
Fax: (570) 893-4041



SERVICE ANIMALS: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A service animal is an animal trained to work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, such as guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals to an impending seizure, or pulling a wheelchair and fetching dropped items.

The County establishes as its policy that animals, including emotional support animals, which are not service animals are prohibited on County premises and persons bringing same will be asked to remove them or to leave County premises. Case-by-case exceptions to this prohibition will be considered for those employees for whom an emotional support animal is found to constitute a reasonable accommodation for a disability within the meaning of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), state and local governments, businesses, and nonprofit organizations that serve the public generally must allow service animals to accompany people with disabilities in all areas of the facility where the public is allowed to go. Federal law recognizes dogs and in some circumstances, miniature horses, as service animals.

If the need for the service animal is not apparent, Clinton County personnel may ask only the following of service animal owners:

1. Whether the service animal is required because of a disability; and
2. What work or task the animal has been trained to perform.

It is not permissible under the ADA to ask about the nature of the owner's disability, for documentation supporting the service animal, or for a demonstration of the service animal's work.

Clinton County affords members of the public who are especially trained service dog trainers, while engaged in the actual training process and activities of service dogs, the same rights, privileges, and responsibilities as other members of the public.

REMOVAL OF SERVICE ANIMAL

A service animal may be removed from the premises in the following circumstances:

1. If the service animal is not under the owner's direct control; or
2. If the service animal is disturbing or disrupting the normal administrative routine despite an opportunity for the owner to get the animal under control; or
3. If the presence, behavior, or actions of the service animal constitutes an immediate risk or danger to people or property.

Depending on the seriousness of the animal's conduct or repeated conduct, service animals may be excluded from Clinton County property temporarily or permanently. Human Resources will conduct any necessary assessments regarding ongoing or permanent removal of a service animal.

Owners who violate this policy or disregard an instruction to remove or exclude a service animal from Clinton County property may be subject to additional penalties, including banning from any Clinton County property, or other fines and penalties under applicable rules, regulations, or laws. Violations of this policy by an owner who is an employee of Clinton County may be referred for corrective or disciplinary action.