

The Cause Church

SERVICE AND SUPPORT ANIMAL'S POLICY

The Cause Church acknowledges the importance of the human-animal bond. The Service and Support Animal Policy was developed to provide information and guidelines concerning animals that are allowed on The Cause Church's premises. The animal companion policy makes allowance for the admittance of trained **service animals** as well as reasonable accommodations for **therapy animals** that have been trained and registered by a therapy organization. No other personal animals will be permitted in The Cause Church premises.

SERVICE ANIMAL

What is a Service Animal?

As defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA's titles II and III):

Service animals are defined as animals that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting, and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a animal has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. animals whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

U.S. Department of Justice

**Civil Rights Division,
Disability Rights Section**

Will there be any necessary requirements for my service animal?

Yes, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless the physical restraint interferes with the service or work of the animal or a person's disability prevents using these restraints. In those cases, where physical restraints cannot be used, the person with the disability must maintain control of the animal through either voice, signal, or any other effective means of control.

What can I expect to be asked by a volunteer or staff member of The Cause?

When a volunteer or staff member is unable to discern what service, an animal is providing, the following two questions should be expected:

- 1) Is the service animal required because of a disability?
- 2) What work or task has the service animal been trained to perform?

If the answer is "no" to any of the above questions, the volunteer or staff member will inform the person of **The Cause Church** Animal Companion Policy and request the person to remove the animal from The Cause Church premises.

What will constitute the removal of my service animal from The Cause Church premises?

The only two reasons a service animal will be removed are:

- 1) The service animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control the animal.
- 2) The service animal is not housebroken.

The handler is responsible for the care of his/her service animal which includes always retaining full control of the animal as well as carrying equipment to clean and dispose of waste.

THERAPY ANIMALS

What is a therapy animal?

A therapy animal is an animal or canine trained and registered to provide affection and comfort to people. Therapy animals are not legally protected at the federal level by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Will there be any necessary requirements for my therapy animal?

Yes. The animal and handler will need to show:

- 1) Proof of registration from an approved Therapy animal training organization.
- 2) A canine health exam along with current vaccination by a certified veterinarian.
- 3) Therapy animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered at all times. At no time, will a therapy animal be allowed to be off restraint.
- 4) Therapy animals must be housebroken.

A therapy animal handler will be granted reasonable accommodations provided they meet the outlined requirements for their therapy animal. The Cause will inform the individual of the designated area(s) where the therapy animal is allowed to be present.

What can I expect from a The Cause Church's volunteer or staff member?

- 1) Will inform and assist you to the designated area(s).
- 2) Will assist in the removal of a disruptive animal.

What will constitute the removal of my therapy animal from The Cause Church premises?

The four primary reasons a therapy animal will be removed are:

- 1) The animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control the animal.
- 2) The animal's behavior poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.
- 3) The animal is not housebroken.

The handler is responsible for the care of his/her therapy animal which includes retaining full control of the animal at all times as well as carrying equipment to clean and dispose of waste.