

**What if I need to request a Service or Assistance Animal?**

*For assistance in requesting a Service or Assistance Animal please contact the West Penn Rural Fair Housing Initiative at 877-725-4472 to request further information or to speak with an attorney.*



**What if my request for a Service or Assistance Animal has been denied?**

*If your request for a Service or Assistance Animal was denied, or you suspect you have been a victim of housing discrimination please contact the West Penn Rural Fair Housing Initiative at 877-725-4472 to speak with an attorney.*



**West Penn Rural Fair Housing Initiative**

Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services, Inc.  
10 West Cherry Avenue  
Washington, PA 15301

Phone: 724-225-6170  
**Fair Housing Hotline: 877-725-4472**

**Housing Rights for People with Disabilities**



**Service and Assistance Animals**

**West Penn Rural Fair Housing Initiative**

Fair Housing Hotline  
**877-725-4472**

FAIR HOUSING OFFICE BEAVER CO.

724.846.6400 OR 724.371.0649

# Disability is a Protected Class

- ❖ The Fair Housing Act (FHA) prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, and disability.
- ❖ The FHA also protects individuals who are associated with a person with a disability.



- ❖ The FHA defines “disability” as: “a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person’s major life activities.”
- ❖ Examples of disabilities include:
  - ◇ Visual, Auditory, or Mobility Impairments
  - ◇ Mental Illness

## Service Animals vs. Assistance Animals

- ⇒ A Service Animal is any animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability.



- ◇ Under the ADA, only dogs and miniature horses are recognized as service animals.

- ⇒ An Assistance Animal is not a pet, it is an animal that works, provides assistance, or performs tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, or provides emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person’s disability.



- ◇ Under the FHA, Assistance Animals are not required to be individually trained or certified and are not limited to dogs and miniature horses.

## More Information on Service and Assistance Animals

- A person with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation for any service or assistance animal, including emotional support animals, provided that the request is reasonable and necessary.
- A housing provider cannot charge a “pet fee” or “pet deposit” for a service or assistance animal.
- A housing provider cannot place limitations on the service or assistance animal; such as specifying breed, size, weight, etc.



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