

## **Policy Regarding the Admission of Service Animals**

The Field Museum of Natural History abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and allows service animals, that is, animals trained to perform specific tasks for an individual with a disability, into all the public areas of the Museum. In most cases, service animals are also allowed in the non-public areas of the Museum; in the rare case that safety concerns prevent a service animal from entering a collections or laboratory space, Museum staff will work with the visitor or researcher to find a reasonable accommodation.

Dogs and miniature horses are the only animals recognized as service animals by federal and state law. Staff may only ask two questions of the animal's owner if his or her disability is not obvious: 1) Is the animal a service animal required because of a disability? and 2) What work or task has the animal been trained to perform? The staff is not allowed to ask about the specifics of the owner's disability or request any documentation or proof of either the owner's disability or animal's abilities.

Miniature horses are allowed into the museum as service animals under the ADA providing they meet 4 specific requirements: 1) the miniature horse is housebroken; (2) the miniature horse is under the owner's control; (3) the facility can accommodate the miniature horse's type, size, and weight; and (4) if the miniature horse's presence will not compromise legitimate safety requirements necessary for safe operation of the facility.

### **Behavior of Service Animals**

A service animal is required to be under control at all times by its handler, although a leash is not required. An out of control or disruptive animal may be required to leave the Museum if the handler is unable to reestablish control over the animal or stop the disruptive behavior. Out of control behaviors include consistent barking, lunging or being aggressive towards people, interfering with collections objects, stealing food, or urinating or defecating on the premises.

If the animal's behavior warrants its removal from the Museum, the animal's handler can stay in the Museum without the animal.

### **Admission of Comfort Animals**

The Field Museum of Natural History abides by the ADA regarding the accessibility of service animals because they perform a specific job. However, animals such as "comfort animals", "therapy animals", "companion animals," or "emotional support animals" are not service animals as defined by the ADA because they are not trained to perform a specific task for an individual with a disability and are therefore **not** allowed into the Museum.

Approved on January 23, 2017 by President Richard Lariviere.