



Service Animals and Comfort / Emotional Support Animals

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), **trained service animals protected by the ADA are permitted** within KCHS facilities; however, no other animals are allowed.

Service animals, under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Service animals are limited to dogs that recognize and respond to the owner needs. Examples include, but are not limited to: guiding vision impaired, alerting hearing impaired, pulling wheelchair, retrieving items, stability, alerting or protecting person having seizure, reminding person to take medication, calming person with post-traumatic stress disorder during an anxiety attack, preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behavior and removing disoriented individuals from dangerous situations.

Comfort/emotional support animals, and therapy dogs, solely provide companionship, comfort, and emotional support and are not service animals under the ADA. Even with a doctor's note, comfort/emotional support animals are not a service animal. Comfort/emotional support animals are not allowed in Minden Medical Clinic or KCHS Outpatient areas and are only allowed with approval and under certain circumstances in the Hospital setting.

Service animals must be under the owner's control at all times. Examples are by a harness, leash, voice control, motion/signal control or any other control method. Any incident that occurs or rule that is not followed, should be reported to management.

Reference links:

- Americans with Disability Act of 1990 U.S.C. 28 CFR §§ 35.104, 35.130, 35.136, 36.104, 36.208, 36.301, 36.302
- <https://adata.org/guide/service-animals-and-emotional-support-animals>
- https://archive.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.pdf
- <https://www.ada.gov/resources/service-animals-faqs/>

