

ANIMALS IN THE MEDICAL OFFICE

Service Animals

Dermatology Associates of York recognizes the need for service animals to accompany patients, at certain times, to their appointments in our facilities. To that end, we are committed to reasonable accommodations where the presence of the service animal does not interfere with the ability of our staff to provide care or jeopardize the safety or wellbeing of others.

According to the American Disabilities Act (ADA), service animals are limited to dogs and miniature horses that are specifically trained to perform work or a task directly related to a patient's disability.

- The request to be accompanied by a service animal at one of our facilities should be communicated in advance of the appointment when possible.
- Service animals may be excluded or have restricted access to certain areas of our facilities. (i.e. restricted areas due to the need to maintain a sterile work environment or due to risks of the patient or others)
- Handlers must have the service animal under control at all times including during an unexpected building emergency such as the activation of a fire alarm or other such alarms. When a service animal is disrupting business, the handler will be asked to remove the service animal from the facility. (i.e. a service dog that is barking repeatedly in the waiting room or clinical area)
- Service animals must be housebroken. The service animal handler is responsible for cleaning up after the animal.
- If the service animal's behavior poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others, the handler will be asked to remove the service animal from the facility. We recognize that this does not include a fundamental fear of animals.

Emotional Support Animals

Due to the nature of our specialty, we are not able to accommodate an emotional support animal (ESA). Exceptions will be considered when presented to the practice manager or Chief Operating Officer, in writing and in advance of the appointment and should include the following:

A letter from the licensed behavioral health professional confirming:

- o The type of emotional support animal;
- o That the patient is currently a patient under the provider's care;
- o That the patient has a disability as defined under the ADA;
- o Includes an explanation of how the ESA helps alleviate the condition with a recommendation that the patient needs the ESA to assist with their disability and ease symptoms of the disorder.

Due to the increased risk of transmission of disease, reptiles will NOT be considered.

Pets

Pets (domestic or tamed animals kept for companionship but that are NOT documented service animals) are not permitted in our facilities.