

Licensing or Certification

Some support animals are licensed, or certified, and carry identification papers, but this is NOT a requirement in Pennsylvania.

A business owner or staff member cannot request:

- Medical documentation for the user
- Special identification card or documentation for the animal
- A demonstration of ability by the animal

Support Animals in Employment

Users, handlers, and trainers of support or guide animals are protected from discrimination in schools, housing facilities, and businesses. However, in employment, only individuals who use a service animal for a disability are protected. Employers do not need to accommodate support animal handlers or trainers.


Support Animals in Housing

Housing providers must make reasonable accommodations to pet policies for individuals with disabilities who need reasonable accommodation requests to use and enjoy their housing. Housing providers may not charge pet rent, fees, or deposit for support animals.



Partnership with a support animal is a necessity, not a lifestyle choice.

It's The Law!

According to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. . .  use of a guide or support animal...is hereby recognized as and declared to be a civil right which shall be enforceable as set forth in this act." 43 P.S. § 953 Read the full text: <https://www.phrc.pa.gov/LegalResources/Policy-and-Law/Pages/default.aspx>

Further, the Pennsylvania Criminal Code states:

A person is guilty of a summary offense to withhold or deny access to place of public accommodation to person who is using/ training a guide, signal or service dog or other aid animal that has been certified by a recognized authority to assist a person. 18 Pa.C.S.A. § 7325



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HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Learn more about illegal discrimination, how to file a complaint with the PHRC, or scheduling group trainings at:

PHRC.pa.gov

Or call:

(717)-787-4410 (TTY)



PHRC

Support Animals are not a choice. They are a right.



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HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION



phrc.@pa.gov 

Equal Opportunity is the Rule of Law in Pennsylvania

In Pennsylvania you have the right to live, work, and learn free from illegal discrimination.

Under the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, it is illegal to discriminate against individuals who use service, support, or guide animals for a disability. This includes trainers or handlers of support or guide animals.

The Act requires businesses to allow support or guide animals to accompany people with disabilities in all areas of a facility that are open to the public.

Housing providers are required to permit support animals for tenants with disabilities who provide supporting documentation.

Many people with disabilities need support animals to perform their jobs or basic life tasks. Support animals assist with:

- Opening doors
- Turning light switches on or off
- Picking up and retrieving objects
- Pulling a wheelchair
- Carrying medication
- Guiding the visually impaired
- Alerting the hearing impaired
- Calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)



**Support Animals
enable independent
working, learning,
and living for a better
quality of life.**

**Allergies and fear of
dogs are not valid
reasons for denying
access to
people using
support animals.**

Exclusions

A support animal must remain under control at all times. If the animal's behavior poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others, the animal may be excluded. Should the animal be removed, staff must offer to meet the needs of the individual without the animal's presence.

Examples:

- A support animal displaying vicious behavior towards residents, guests, workers, or students
- A support animal has a documented history of biting