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## **Service Animal Policy**

The Gwinnett County Fair is committed to fair and consistent practices relative to gate admission. We fully support the rights of every totally or partially blind person to be accompanied by a guide dog as well as the rights of every physically disabled or deaf person to be accompanied by a service dog.

The Gwinnett County Fair contains many rides and exhibits that produce sudden loud noises and bright lights without warning that can spook untrained animals. This policy defines the requirements to be met to enter the Gwinnett County Fair with a service animal.

The Gwinnett County Fair includes a “Livestock Area” that contains many species of animals. Many of these animals are very large and can become agitated in the presence of a dog. This poses a very real safety issue for both people and animals; therefore, **no pets or service animals of any kind** are allowed in the “Livestock Area” at any time. This includes the show barns, show arenas, pony rides and petting zoo.

**Gwinnett County Fair regulations do not permit dogs, pets or other animals on the grounds, except:**

- Animals involved in exhibitions sanctioned by the Gwinnett County Fair.
- Trained service animals. The table on the following page explains the difference between service animals compared to therapy dogs or emotional support animals.



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Comparison of Service, Therapy & Emotional Support Animals

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## ***Service Animal Training:***

- Service animals must be individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. The work or task the service animal has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability.
- Service animals must be trained to behave properly in places of public accommodation.

## ***Service Animal Behavior:***

- A service animal shall be under the control of its handler at all times.
- A service animal must be harnessed, leashed or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the individual's disability prevents using these devices.
- Inappropriate behavior is grounds for excluding the animal from the premises. Therefore, a service animal should not be wandering around, socializing, eating at the table or being fed.
- It is reasonable to expect that the service animal not bark excessively, be disruptive, run to people or jump on them, or act aggressively toward people. The service animal is there to provide a service; it is working. Keep in mind that sometimes it is a service animal's job to warn its handler of surroundings or impending events, and it might do so with a bark.

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## ***The Gwinnett County Fairs' Rights:***

- A member of the Gwinnett County Livestock and Fair Association may ask whether the animal is a service animal required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to perform for the individual with a disability.
- The provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort or companionship **does not** constitute work or tasks.
- If the handler refuses to answer, the animal can be excluded from the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds.
- If the handler answers that the animal makes them feel better, helps them calm down, eases their depression or something similar, this indicates that it is the animal's presence alone that helps the handler, and that the animal is not trained to do a task or provide a service.
- Emotional support animals and therapy animals are **NOT** service animals according to ADA's definition.

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## **Americans with Disabilities Act**

- According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, only dogs and miniature horses can be service animals. Emotional support animals are not service animals.
- You may ask two questions of individuals with service animals: Is the dog or miniature horse required because of a disability? And: Which work or task has the animal been

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trained to perform? You may not ask about the handler's disability or ask the animal to perform a task, nor can a handler be asked to show a prescription for a service animal.

- Service animals must work from the floor – they are not allowed in grocery carts or on chairs and couches, and in most cases may not be carried.
- There are no state or federal requirements for certification, licensing, vests, documentation, patches or other evidence that the dog or horse is a service animal.
- Business owners may ask that service dogs that are not under control or not house trained to leave a store or facility.